- *Early Deadline - Sunday, Dec. 21st, at noon*
- *Perfect Christmas Gift - "AgawamOpoly"*
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Advertiser·News
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Volume XX Number 50 "Your Hometown Newspaper" December 18, 1997

Final Abutter Signs On; Way Is Now Paved...

Berkshire Power Getting Ready To Construct Electric Plant

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

As of Tuesday morning, "if" became "when" for the developers of an independent power plant on Moylan Lane.

The three-year battle over Berkshire Power's plan to build a $185 million gas-fired power plant in the industrial park ended at the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) the morning after Town Council approved a resolution asking the power developers to post a performance bond pending the appeal of a Department of Public Utilities decision.

SJC Assistant Clerk Fran Kenneally confirmed the filing of a "joint stipulation of dismissal of appeal with prejudice" by both parties in the case of Antonio & Maria Cuccovia v. Department of Public Utilities.

Kenneally said the phrase "with prejudice" means there is no possibility of future appeals in the case.

With the support of the Concerned Citizens and Businesses of Agawam (CCBA), the appeal of the DPU decision granting Berkshire Power an exemption from local zoning was filed on behalf of the Cuccovias on November 26th.

As the sole remaining power plant opponents with legal standing (intervenor status) in the case, the Cuccovias had been the CCBA's last hope of continuing the court battle blocking construction of the power plant.

Berkshire Power Project Manager Kenneth Roberts would neither confirm nor deny that the company had reached a monetary settlement with the Cuccovias or with any of the other intervenors who have withdrawn their opposition to the plant.

As he has each time an abutter or intervenor has withdrawn their opposition, Roberts said, "We have addressed their concerns."

Financial closing on the plant will be held on December 23rd, with construction commencing immediately thereafter, although heavy construction will not begin for many months, Roberts said.

PILOT Offer Is Still On The Table...

The company's payment in-lieu-of-tax (PILOT) offer of $1 million a year, escalating at three percent a year, is still on the table and will likely appear on the Town Council agenda in January.

SEE BERKSHIRE POWER - Page 2...

Santa Claus Is Comin' To Town!!!





YOU BETTER WATCH OUT, YOU BETTER NOT POUT...Santa & Mrs. Claus were in town recently to hear the requests from the youngsters. In photo left, Aaron Chase Smith, 3½, tells St. Nick how good he has been during the past year at the St. John's Church Bazaar on December 6th; in photo right, Danny Masciotra and Jordan Noah Cree sit with Mr. & Mrs. Claus at the Agawam Junior Women's Club's Annual "Breakfast With Santa" on Sunday, December 7th at the Middle School. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

BERKSHIRE POWER - from Page 1...

"Either we will have a PILOT agreement with the city or we'll just be taxed in accordance with the law," Roberts said.

At presstime, repeated telephone calls to the Cuccovias had not been returned.

CCBA spokesman Karl Stieg said he had no comment at this time. However, after the CCBA membership has the opportunity to meet and confer with their attorneys, a press conference will be held.

"One thing I can say with certainty is that we are not going away — we are not dead," Stieg said.

Roberts reiterated his offer to drop the company's libel suit filed against some members of the CCBA last summer if they would in turn drop their countersuits against Berkshire Power.

Stieg spurned Berkshire's offer of a mutual withdrawal of the libel suits as nothing more than a "PR ploy to say they are good neighbors when they are anything but good neighbors."

Stieg said, "They want us to admit guilt and until they come to the table willing to bargain in good faith, our suit stands. After they've damaged people's lives, they want to say 'we'll withdraw if you withdraw.' That's not enough. This is a very personal, very emotional thing."

Stieg said the CCBA New Year's Eve fundraiser at Ferruccio's will be held as planned. A portion of the funds will be spent defending CCBA members from Berkshire Power's libel suit.

"We have to hire lawyers to defend our freedom of speech," Stieg said.

State Rep. Keenan Will Be Hosting A Holiday Open House

State Representative Daniel F. Keenan will be hosting a holiday open house on Friday, December 19th, from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. at his district office at 342 Springfield Street, Agawam.

You are cordially invited to join the celebration of the holiday season. Please stop by to enjoy casual conversation and refreshments.

Agawam's Inaugural Ceremonies Are Set For January 9, 1998

The AGAWAM INAUGURAL COMMITTEE has set the 1998 INAUGURAL CELEBRATIONS for Friday, January 9, 1998. The celebration will include a mock swearing in ceremony for the Mayor, the Agawam City Council, and the Agawam School Committee. The ceremony will be followed by dinner, dancing, and time to meet our local officials.

The 1998 INAUGURAL CELEBRATION will be held at The Oaks Banquet House, which is located at 1070 Suffield Street in Agawam. The live music and entertainment will be provided by Passport, a four-piece band specializing in music from the 70's, 80's, and today.

In order to make the 1998 INAUGURAL CELEBRATIONS a success, we need your support. The INAUGURAL COMMITTEE is seeking business sponsors for the event as well.

Tickets will be $22 per person. The sponsorship cost is $75, which includes two tickets and a listing in the evening's program.

Tickets will be on sale starting December 16, 1997. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer in the Mayor's Office at 786-0400, Ext. 201.

LEGAL NOTICE **LEGAL NOTICE**

TOWN OF AGAWAM
BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing at the Agawam Middle School Cafeteria, 68 Main St., Agawam, MA on FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 1998, at 6:30 p.m. for all parties interested in the appeal of THOMAS R. FREDETTE, who is seeking a Special Use Permit in accordance with Section 180-11, of the Zoning Ordinances, which would allow for the temporary storage of the old "Betty's Townhouse" building at the premises identified as 266 WALNUT STREET.

Ronald A. Hebert
Chairman

Published: December 18, 1997

All the local news with us, each week

Ag. Police Dept. Arrest Blotter For Dec. 7 - Dec. 13

On December 7, 1997, **Paul D. Drewnowski** of 449 Springfield St., Agawam was arrested and charged with driving an uninsured, unregistered motor vehicle and an outstanding arrest warrant. Arresting officer was Eric Camerlin.

On December 8, 1997, **Jose A. Rivera** of 552 S. Summer St., Springfield was arrested and charged with shoplifting. Arresting officer was Mark Ceccarini.

On December 9, 1997, **William M. Garvin** of 117 Reed St., Agawam was arrested and charged with an outstanding warrant. Arresting officer was John Kunasek.

On December 9, 1997, **Ossama Sageir** of 69 Athol St., Springfield was arrested and charged with outstanding warrants. Arresting officer was Michael Gruska.

On December 11, 1997, **Steven M. Dyer** of 23 Eldridge Ave., West Springfield was arrested and charged with shoplifting and an outstanding warrant. Arresting officer was Michael Gruska.

On December 13, 1997, **Angel L. Rivera** of 799 Silver St., Agawam was arrested and charged with driving while under the influence of alcohol. Arresting officer was Richard Riccio.

On December 13, 1997, **Richard H. Salmon** of 25 Angela Dr., Chicopee was arrested and charged with possession of a class "D" substance. Arresting officer was Det. M. Pfau.

On December 13, 1997, **Gary A. Jock** of 51 Brookline Ave., Feeding Hills was arrested and charged with possession of a class "D" substance. Arresting officer was Det. Mark Pfau.

Please remember our deadline for next week's Christmas issue is Sunday, Dec. 21st at noon.

Wishing You Happy Holidays
And A Prosperous New Year

From The Law Offices Of

Scott M. Hibbert

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- Real Estate Law
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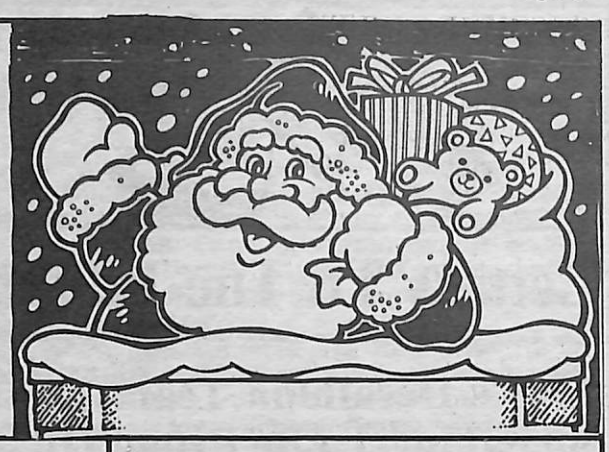
746-5088 or 789-9800

* Personal injury cases carry no fees unless successful.

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** Net After Rebate*



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Southgate Vodka
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(750 ml.)

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Blended Whiskey
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(1.75 Ltr.)

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Light Or Ice
$8.49 Plus Dep.
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From Anheuser-Busch

Bella Spumante
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(750 ml.)
** Net After Rebate*

Red Dog
Or
Ice House
$6.99 Plus Dep.
(12-Pk. Btls.)

Bud Dry
$10.99 Plus Dep.
(30-Pk. Cans)

Rolling Rock
$9.99 Plus Dep.
(18-Pk. Cans)



Chivas Regal
Glass Set
$24.99
(750 ml.)
Plus 2 Glasses

Old New England
Egg Nog
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(Ltr.)



Miller Genuine Draft
Reg. Or Light
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(24 12-Oz. L.N. Btls.)

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Pete's Wicked Winter Sampler
Michelob Winter Sampler Pack

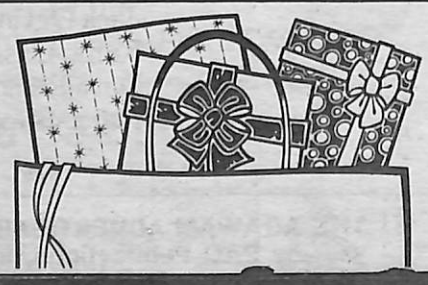
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Sam Adams Winter Lager
Pete's Wicked Winter Brew
Michelob Winter Brew
Red Hook Winter Hook
Harpoon Winter Warmer
"Cider Jack" Spiced Cider

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Prices Effective December 19th - December 31st



Open Sunday, December 21st & December 28th — 12:00 Noon To 6:00 P.M.



Letters To The Editor

AHS's Decathlon Team Is Something To Be Proud Of

To The Editor:

The Academic Decathlon team at Agawam High School would like to thank *AAN* News Editor Kathy Cassanelli for her outstanding coverage of the recent competition. While we often hear about the accomplishments of our excellent athletic teams and of the individual athletes, it is not so often that we hear about the accomplishments of our academic teams and their members.

Agawam should be very proud of the nine young adults who represented our high school at the Western Massachusetts Academic Decathlon on Saturday, November 21st. After the article appeared in *The Agawam Advertiser News,* the final scores of our team members were sent to us.

It is with great pleasure and pride that we report that **Honorable Mention** goes to Erik Sunny for placing highest *overall* in the Varsity category. Besides his five medals, Erik can also be proud of the fact that his Art score was equal to that of the top of the next level.

Geoff Krapf also deserves recognition for earning a medal while competing above his level. And for anyone who thinks our students at Agawam High School are not articulate, out of 1,000 possible points in each individual competition, seven of our nine students scored above 700 in the Essay contest; eight of our nine students scored above 700 in the Speech contest; and eight out of nine scored above 700 in the interview portion of the competition.

We should all be as proud of our academic teams as we are of our athletic teams. They, too, have a sense of pride in what they do, and we should support them with the same enthusiasm we have for all of our sports teams.

Sincerely,
Larry O'Brien
Kathy Mouneimneh
Agawam High School

Many Kudos Go Out To All At Agawam High

To The Editor:

Congratulations to Agawam High School Principal Joseph S. Zabielski, Assistant Principal Paul Cavallo, Dean of Students Bernadette Conte, guidance counselors, psychologists, teachers, special education teachers, substitute teachers, coaches, tutors, parents, guardians, relatives, volunteers, and friends who worked extremely hard to reduce the number of students who did not graduate from "...21 in the Class of 1996" to "...two in the Class of 1997," according to two recent *Union News* articles.

What a remarkable turnaround! Everyone working together as a team made this possible.

Very truly yours,
Clyde E.P. Benton
Feeding Hills

Skolnick Honored To Have Served On City Council

To The Editor:

Officially, this is my last statement as an Agawam City Councilor. This is a bittersweet moment for me. It is always difficult to say farewell.

I have kept my promise to the citizens of Agawam to vote in the best interest of all the town, independently, and without catering to any vested interests.

I extend my hand in friendship to the incoming City Councilors and hope they follow a similar path. In that event, we will all be winners.

It has been my honor to have served as an Agawam City Councilor for four terms and I thank all my many supporters with all my heart.

To those people who were elected, I give you my sincere congratulations and best wishes.

Thank you,
David Skolnick
Agawam City Councilor

Jr. Women's Club Says Thanks For Breakfast Support

To The Editor:

The Agawam Junior Women's Club would like to thank all those who attended our fifth Pancake Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus on Sunday, December 7th at the Agawam Middle School.

What a great way to celebrate the holiday season! With the continued support of our community, we were able to provide a delicious breakfast, a truly wonderful Santa and Mrs. Claus, pictures at a nominal fee, letters to Santa, and a collection for our Holiday Food Baskets all in one morning.

The Agawam Juniors would like to thank Mr. Jim Loomis for his assistance and H.P. Hood for their generous donation.

Again, we hope that everyone who attended will return next year and will also continue to support the Agawam Junior Women's Club in their many projects and programs.

Carol Patrick
Donna M. Shibley
Ways and Means Co-Chairpersons
Agawam Junior Women's Club

Congratulations To Undefeated Soccer Team

To The Editor:

I would like to congratulate the Under-17 Coed Soccer Champions, *Kelly's Blue,* on their undefeated fall 1997 season.

In all my coaching experiences, this is by far the most talented, well-behaved group of young people I have been associated with.

I would also like to thank the Agawam Soccer Association, especially Dave Shaw, for organizing this very fun league which consists of high school guys and girls.

An especially warm thanks goes to Christina's Country Store, the Agawam Police Association, and Ronald Brown for cash contributions for U-17 "Undefeated" sweatshirts, which were presented to the players at Bruno's Pizzeria at our party on December 7th. Eddie Santaniello was very generous with a deep discount for the cost of the party.

Thanks again,
Brian Kelly
Agawam

Sounds Of Music Concert Great Success For All

To The Editor:

On Wednesday evening, December 3rd, Sounds of Music performed a Christmas Concert sponsored by the Agawam Rotary Club. There were about 400 people in attendance.

I am writing this letter to offer a special thank you and to praise the custodial staff at the Agawam Middle School. Everyone involved with the Sounds of Music Concert, as well as countless guests, commented on the beautiful condition of the school.

The building was immaculate and the auditorium was beautiful. You could feel the sense of pride that the staff takes in maintaining the school.

All of us at Sounds of Music, as well as Agawam Rotary, extend a heartfelt thank you for making us so welcome and by offering a facility that left us with a deep sense of pride in our community.

Wishing you all a great holiday,
Richie Mitnick
Sounds of Music

F.H. Congregational Gives Big Boost To Local Crop Walk

To The Editor:

For the 11th year in a row, the Feeding Hills Congregational Church has been the top money-raiser among Agawam area churches.

The final count is in, and here are the results from the Agawam/West Springfield Crop Hunger Walk.

From Agawam and Feeding Hills, a total of 46 walkers earned $4,903:

* Feeding Hills Congregational Church — $2,876 (11 walkers).
* Agawam Congregational Church — $783 (12 walkers).
* Agawam United Methodist Church — $538 (nine walkers).
* St. John's Church — $333 (eight walkers).
* St. David — $251 (four walkers).
* Valley Community Church — $122 (two walkers).

SEE LETTERS - Page 5...

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sponsored By
COLONIAL FUNERAL HOME

Friday, December 19th
"Holiday Open House" at
State Rep. Dan Keenan's district office
(342 Springfield Street, Agawam)
2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Monday, December 22nd
Annual Christmas Party by the
Agawam/Feeding Hills chapter of AARP
At the Agawam Senior Center
1:00 p.m.

Monday, December 22nd
Meeting for the parents of sixth graders who plan to go on Washington DC trip this April
At Agawam Middle School cafeteria
7:00 p.m.

Friday, January 9th
"1998 Inaugural Celebration"
At The Oaks Banquet House,
1070 Suffield Street, Agawam
Call 786-0400, ext. 201 for
tickets and additional information

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THE AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS (U.S.P.S.-001-170) is published weekly for $24.00 per year by PAG Publications, Inc., 14 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills, MA 01030-0263. Second class postage is paid at F.H., MA 01030 & at associated offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Agawam Advertiser News, P.O. Box 263, F.H., MA 01030-0263.

LETTERS - from Page 4...

From West Springfield, a total of 42 walkers earned $3,339:

* Grace Lutheran Church — $641 (seven walkers).
* St. Louis — $550.50 (three walkers).
* West Springfield Baptist — $467 (two walkers).
* Good Shepherd — $465 (six walkers).
* Mittineague Congregational — $460 (10 walkers).
* St. Ann's — $255.50 (four walkers).
* Mittineague Methodist — $230 (three walkers).
* West Springfield Congregational — $170 (six walkers).
* Open Pantry — $100 (one walker).

Furthermore, an additional $258 was raised, thereby bringing the total amount of money raised to $8,500.

The Walk Committee would like to thank all those who walked, sponsored, or helped at the registration tables on that cold afternoon of October 19th.

Special thanks must be expressed to *The Agawam Advertiser News* for the great coverage of our event. Also, we say "thank you" to the Crankers Antique Auto Club for helping to cook and serve the hot dogs; Ben and Amanda Rosanski for blowing up the balloons; Heritage Hall for the muffin sale; State Rep. Dan Keenan and his family for their support; Agawam Town Councilor Elect John Negrucci for his help; Agawam Country Estates; and "The Bluebirds" for providing music before the walk.

Of the $8,500 raised, $2,125 will be given to the West Springfield/Agawam Open Pantry. The balance will go to national disaster areas and other hunger and homeless needs throughout the world.

The Agawam/West Springfield Crop Hunger Walk Committee

Agawam Is Fortunate To Have Dedicated Teaching Staff

To The Editor:

Recently, I had an opportunity to visit two classrooms in two separate schools here in Agawam.

Both classrooms were different; one a kindergarten in Granger School, the other, a 5th/6th grade class at the Middle School.

I want to thank the teachers and assistant teachers in both these schools for their help, their cooperation, and for their professionalism.

Being in both of these classes afforded me the opportunity to see just what goes on in them. I want to commend the teachers for their dedication to the special students they teach and nurture.

I think we sometimes take our schools and our teachers for granted, but they deserve our gratitute and our respect.

Agawam is truly fortunate to have dedicated teachers such as these. What better time of year to count our blessings!

Thanks to Mrs. Linda Morassi, Mrs. Judy Lavin, Mrs. Debra Poirier, Mrs. Stanton, and to Mrs. Rumplik and Mrs. Keough.

Sincerely,
Carol Patrick
Feeding Hills

LEGAL NOTICE **LEGAL NOTICE**

TOWN OF AGAWAM
BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing at the Agawam Middle School Cafeteria, 68 Main St., Agawam, MA on FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 1998, at 6:45 P.M. for all parties interested in the appeal of IAN M. & LISA BOOTH, who are seeking a Special Use Permit in accordance with Section 180-11, of the Zoning Ordinances, which would allow for the retention of a second housekeeping unit at the premises identified as 37 HOLLAND DRIVE.

Doreen Prouty
Acting Chairperson

Published: December 18, 1997

FireWise...

by Fire Chief David Pisano

Holiday Fire Safety

We think of the holidays as happy times, a chance to celebrate with family and friends.

The Agawam Fire Department wants to wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season, and offers the following suggestions to keep your holiday safe:

• When purchasing a live tree, look for the following signs of freshness. A fresh tree is green. Needles will be hard to pull from branches when bent between your fingers. Fresh needles don't break if bounced on the ground, and a minimum number of needles should fall off.

• To keep your tree fresh, cut off about two inches of the trunk to expose fresh wood for better absorption of water, keep stored outside the house 'til you're ready to decorate, and keep the stand filled with water.

• When placing your tree, make sure it is kept away from sources of heat, like fireplaces or heat vents, and out of the way of traffic.

• Check out your lights before placing them on the tree. Look for worn or frayed wires and broken bulbs. Make sure you do not overload extension cords.

• Take care when using candles. Keep them away from other flammable decorations. Place them where they cannot be knocked over or reached by children. Do not leave lit candles in an unattended room.

• Make sure your smoke detectors are working properly. If you'll be traveling to visit family and you're not sure if they have a smoke detector, take one with you.

Remember, fires don't take a holiday, and by taking some precautions, you and your family can celebrate a fire-safe holiday. For more information, contact the Agawam Fire Department at 786-2662.

Gift subscriptions are available at our office or by calling 786-7747 - 786-8137.

Jack Devine needs at least 48 hours notice to cover your event. Thanks.

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650 Suffield St. (Rte. 75), Agawam

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- Special Prices For Dozen And ½ Dozen Purchases
- Sunday Special - ½ Dozen For $2.09
- Daily Special - Any Size Coffee And Donut For $1.09
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Manhattan Bagels



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- Daily Special - Any Size Coffee And Bagel For $1.09
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- Daily Special - Any Size Coffee, Bagel, And Cream Cheese For $1.59

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Council Holds Public Hearing On Cell Phone Towers

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

The plan to hold a joint Town Council/Planning Board public hearing on the proposed ordinance to regulate telecommunications towers fell through when only two Planning Board members were able to attend Monday night's council meeting.

Planning Director Deborah Dachos informed the council that the Planning Board lacked a quorum and could not hold its public hearing.

But, Council President Kent Servis said the council would go ahead with its public hearing and continue the hearing until the next regularly scheduled council meeting on January 5th, when the Planning Board could also hold its hearing.

In her presentation to the council, Ms. Dachos gave an overview of the provisions included in the 18 pages of the draft legislation being proposed to regulate the location and style of the transmitting towers.

Under federal law, the town can regulate the towers, but not ban them or enact regulations that would unnecessarily restrict the competitiveness of the industry.

The legislation was drafted by a four-member committee comprised of Ms. Dachos, Town Solicitor Thomas S. Locke, Servis, and Planning Board member Frank Lawlor.

Ms. Dachos said, "One very significant component of the zoning ordinance is unlike anything you've seen to date. We actually overlay our zoning map with a telecommunications district with restrictions that would layer over existing zoning districts.

"This ordinance provides the community with legally defensible regulations that will allow you to place the towers (where they will be the least visually intrusive). We wanted to give you the ability to choose where the community thinks the industry will have the least impact," she said.

The two criteria used to identify the land parcels comprising the overlay zoning district centered on finding the kinds of sites the industry has indicated are ideal, while protecting residential areas from the visual impact of the towers, according to her.

"We've chosen high spots adjacent to major arteries in areas not necessarily visible from residential areas and we've included Provin Mountain becuase it is considered the idea location in Agawam," Ms. Dachos said.

"... Significant Policy Decision ..."

In response to Councilor Thomas Ennis' question concerning how to handle complaints from landowners outside the overlay district who may want the chance to rent space for a tower, Ms. Dachos said, "This is a significant policy decision on the part of the Town Council. You have to decide where the towers will be least intrusive, but you have the ability to increase the overlay district just as you can alter any other zoning line."

Council Vice-President Edward Caba complimented the Planning Department for doing as good a job as the federal government allows. Caba complained, "We don't have the right to say what we want in our own town and that bothers me a lot."

Last month, the Planning Board unanimously agreed to sponsor the draft legislation that will create overlay zoning districts to restrict wireless telecommunications towers to monopoles allowed only on specific sites, including Provin Mountain, Riverside Park, Bondi's Island, parts of the industrial park, a parcel of land owned by Western Massachusetts Electric Company, and the four golf courses.

The monopoles must be the minimum height required to provide adequate service area coverage for the cell phone company, not to exceed 150 feet.

Under the terms of the ordinance, side- and roof-mounted antennas would be allowed on existing buildings anywhere in town as long as they do not project more than 10 feet above the building or more than 10 feet above the height limit for the zoning district.

Also, the ordinance would require a special permit from the Planning Board for any wireless telecommunications facility, whether it be a monopole or a structure-mounted antenna. Camouflaging and screening of the facilities would be required by the special permit granting authority.

"With their extensive experience with reviewing these facilities, the Planning Board feels they are the best agency to oversee the special permit granting process," Ms. Dachos said.

Council Gary Suffriti did not agree. "I would like to see the special permit authority stay with the Zoning Board of Appeals."

Required To Pay For An Expert Consultant...

In addition to being required to obtain a special permit for towers and antennas, telecommunications companies would be required to pay for an expert consultant to advise the Planning Board on the technical information required as part of the permitting process.

"We have to know if the company has an existing facility within eight miles that could be enhanced to provide the service and if there are any towers within eight miles owned by other telecommunications providers where they can co-locate," Ms. Dachos said.

Former Feeding Hills resident Dwight L. Brouillard, Jr., who has been constructing and camouflaging telecommunications towers for the last two years, said the pressure to put a facility on line as quickly as possible is the town's "hole card" in getting what it wants from the industry.

A typical cell phone tower site can bring in as much as $10,000 an hour in revenue to a service provider and a site in Waltham, MA, earns $1,000 a minute, Brouillard said.

Along with seven partners, Brouillard recently launched S.V. Designs, a company that specializes in camouflage for the telecommunications industry.

"At one-percent of the cost of construction, camouflage costs run in the $120,000 to $150,000 range," Brouillard said.

After checking with the town's legal department, Ms. Dachos said the Planning Board would conduct its public hearing jointly with the council at the January 20th council meeting.

Keenan Has Brochure On Fuel Assistance, Energy Info, Etc.

State Representative Daniel F. Keenan is pleased to provide the Citizens Energy Corporation 1997-1998 Guide to Fuel Assistance, Healthcare Resources, and Energy Information to assist members of the community who need help meeting their most essential needs.

This brochure contains information about the State Fuel Assistance Program (and its new High Energy Pilot Program), utility rights and discounts, and oil buying groups. Also included in the brochure is a section to inform readers about healthcare resources including the Senior Pharmacy Program, the MassHealth Program, and/or Children's Medical Security Plan.

To obtain a brochure with information to help families prepare for this winter and the new year ahead, please call Rep. Keenan's district office at (413) 786-4545.

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Rte. 57 Extention Into Southwick; Sewer Overflows Addressed By Council

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

The plan to extend Route 57 into Southwick and the plan to stop sewers from overflowing into local rivers each took a step forward last week.

Nearly 30 years after first being proposed, the vision of cars traveling to Southwick on Route 57 Extension moved one step farther down the road as design engineers from Risso Associates of Natick recently held a "partnering session" with State Highway Dept. officials and officials from Agawam and Southwick to discuss Phase II of the project.

Designs for the $16.7 million highway expansion are expected to be complete early next year and construction is expected to begin in 1999 with completion the following year. When the design plans reach the 75 percent completion stage, a public hearing will be held to allow public comment during the design process.

So far, Phase II of the Route 57 expansion is on schedule. But legislation pending in Washington could put the brakes on and slow down the delayed project.

Mayor Christopher C. Johnson said the biggest contingency facing the project is the possible change in the federal highway allocation formula, which would result in fewer federal dollars for Massachusetts highway projects.

"Currently, Massachusetts gets back more than we pay in gas tax, but there is a measure before Congress to have the states get back what they pay in," Johnson said. "If that happens, projects in Western Mass. will be delayed because funds will be going to support the Big Dig in Boston."

No Action Taken

Johnson said the legislation to change the way federal highway funds are distributed to the states has been debated for most of this year, but there has been no action taken.

Housetakings have already begun to pave the way for the highway expansion, ending years of uncertainty for the homeowners who have known for some time that their properties stood in th path of the proposed highway.

Altogether, 11 homes must be taken by eminent domain at a cost to the state of $1.1 million to make room for the highway. Phase II will take the highway from South Westfield Street, past Hendom Heights, and across a portion of the Tuckahoe Turf Farm before ending in Southwick on Route 57.

In an unrelated development, the town has received state approval for the plan to eliminate combined sewer overflow into the Connecticut and Westfield Rivers as mandated by the U.S. Department of Environmental Protection (EPA).

A letter from the State Department of Environmental Protection says that the plans and specificiations submitted by Tighe & Bond, Inc. (on behalf of the town) comply with the requirements of the Financial Assistance Program for Water Pollution Abatement Projects.

But, final approval for financial aid awaits specific authorization from the state in order for the town to go out to bid for construction of the project.

Johnson said he expected the sewer overhaul would receive state funding within the next six months and construction of the two-year project would be completed in compliance with the EPA order.

Not A Grant

"The funding is not a grant. It's a low or no interest loan from the State Water Pollution Abatement Trust," Johnson said. "In essence, we will be saving interest costs on the term of the bond."

Last spring, Town Council authorized an appropriation and loan order for $3,140,000 for the construction of sanitary sewers and storm drains to bring the town into compliance with an EPA order issued under the Clean Water Act.

The administrative order requires the complete construction of the Combined Sewer Overflow projects by July 1, 1999 to abate the discharge of wastewater into the Connecticut and Westfield Rivers.

Along with other riverfront communities, Agawam is under an EPA administrative order to prevent the discharge of raw sewage into the rivers. The order is a result of a 1988 EPA study recommending an overhaul of the town's sewer system to eliminate combined sewers carrying both sewage and storm drainage.

Unable to handle the volume of wastewater during periods of heavy rain, combined sewers overflow and raw sewage spews into the river.

Construction of the sewer project must begin by July 1, 1998 and be completed within one year.

The projects included in the EPA order are the Main Street interceptor from the new pump station behind H.P. Hood to Suffield Street ($1,782,000); Suffield Street sewer separation including culvert improvement at Main Street near Federal St. ($822,000); Cooley Street sewer separation ($233,000), and the Elm Street storm drain ($303,000).

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— Agawam Obituaries —

Earl Bennett

Earl Bennett, 80, of Westfield, died at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

He was a 40-year industrial engineer at the former American Bosch Co. and retired in 1979.

Born in Hudson, New York, he lived in Westfield for 60 years.

He was a Navy veteran of World War II and belonged to the West Springfield/Agawam Elks Lodge.

He was a musician with several area bands.

He leaves his wife, Pearl (Desmarais) Bennett; a son, Ronald of Westfield; two daughters, Susan DeBisschop of Springfield and Janice Logan of Seabrook, New Hampshire; a stepson, Thomas Sowa of Springfield; a stepdaughter, Susan Williams of Springfield; and a brother, Ralph of Waterford, New York.

A private service was held at Robert E. Cusack Funeral Home. The burial was also private and was held in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Theodore Waterman

Theodore Waterman, 65, of 97 Walnut Street, Agawam, died in Springfield's Mercy Hospital.

He owned and operated T. Waterman & Sons for 25 years, and retired this year.

Born in Springfield, he lived in Agawam for 35 years.

He was a life member of the Dante Club in West Springfield, and a former member of the Moose and Mawaga Clubs in Agawam.

He raced cars at Riverside, Stafford Springs, Connecticut, and other area tracks in the 1950's.

He leaves his wife, Anna (Ricapito) Waterman; six sons, Theodore F. of Agawam, John K. of Springfield, Frederick M. of West Springfield, Cris V. of Feeding Hills, Michael M. of Agawam, and Guy F. of Springfield; three daughters, Deborah A. Santaniello of Feeding Hills, Patti Ann Flinkman of Chester, and Geri A. Morris of West Springfield; and 11 grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home, with the burial in Springfield Street Cemetery in Feeding Hills.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sister Mary Caritas Center for Oncology, Mercy Hospital, 271 Carew Street, Springfield, MA 01102.

Robert W. McCann

Robert W. McCann, 70, of 1805 Imperial Palm Drive, Largo, Florida, a retired bus driver for the former Springfield (Massachusetts) Street Railway Co., died at Palms of Pasadena Hospital in South Pasadena.

He also worked for Camilleri Bros. of Holyoke, and the Agawam School Department.

Born in Agawam, he lived in Springfield most of his life before moving to Florida in 1996.

He was a former member of the Agawam Sportsmen's Club.

He leaves a son, Michael of Palos Heights, Illinois; two granddaughters; and a friend, Jackie Hersdorff of Largo.

The funeral was held at Tazzini Funeral Home and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, both in Springfield, with the burial at St. Thomas Cemetery in West Springfield.

Esther E. Buoniconti

Esther E. (Pickett) Buoniconti, 79, of 377 Springfield Street, Agawam, a 10-year assembler for Buxton Leather Co. of Agawam, died in a local nursing home.

She retired in 1978.

Born in West Springfield, she lived in Agawam for most of her life.

She was a communicant of St. Anthony of Padua Church, and a former member of the St. Anthony Society.

Her husband, Frank A. Buoniconti, died in 1962.

She leaves a son, Frank A. of Colorado Springs, Colorado; a daughter, Sandra A. Przeszlo of Agawam; four brothers, Robert W. Pickett of Agawam, Henry A. Pickett of Springfield, and Richard and Robert Wodell of Agawam; a sister, June Swiatek of Lake Havasu, Arizona; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Cierpial's Grape Street Funeral Home in Chicopee Center, and St. Theresa's Church in Agawam. The burial was held in St. Michael's Cemetery in Springfield.

Frank J. O'Donnell

Frank J. O'Donnell, 79, of 189 Springfield Road, Westfield, died at Noble Hospital in Westfield.

He was a 40-year bus driver for the Springfield Street Railway. He retired in 1983.

Born in Holyoke, he lived there for several years and in Agawam for 15 years before moving to Westfield in 1973.

He was a communicant of Blessed Sacrament Church.

He was an Army veteran of World War II. He belonged to the Westfield Moose Lodge.

He leaves his wife, Anita (Robidoux) O'Donnell; two sons, John of Wareham and Robert of Westfield; two sisters, Elizabeth Fritz of Chicopee and Ann Stachowicz of Stonington, Connecticut; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

A graveside service was held at St. Mary's Cemetery, and Westfield Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Frances M. Caron

Frances M. Caron, 84, of Ocala, Florida, and formerly of Feeding Hills, died at a Florida nursing home.

She was a former employee of Massachusetts Mutual Co.

Born in Chicopee, she lived in Feeding Hills for 21 years before moving south.

She leaves two sons, Richard W. of Ocala and Donald A. of Englewood; two sisters, Wilma Chapin and Jean Krampits of Chicopee; and two grandchildren. The service was held in Florida, and Jennings-Archway Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Denise M. Garrett

Denise M. Garrett, 27, of 20 Hamilton Street, Chicopee, died at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield after being injured in a car accident.

She was the activities director at the Heritage Woods North Assisted-Living Home in Agawam. She worked previously at Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Co., and was the former activities assistant in the Alzheimer's disease unit at Western Massachusetts Hospital in Westfield.

Born in Springfield, she was a 1988 graduate of Agawam High School, and received a graphic arts degree from Holyoke Community College. She also received a bachelor of arts degree in art therapy from Elms College in 1996.

She was a communicant of Our Lady of Hope Church in Springfield. She was a longtime Agawam resident before moving to Chicopee in July.

She leaves her parents, William F. and Regina F. (McMahon) Garrett of Southwick; a brother, William F. of Burlington, Vermont; a sister, Ann M. Garrett of West Springfield; a niece; and her fiance, Scott S. Sotiropoulos of Chicopee.

The funeral was held at St. Pierre Springfield Funeral Chapels and the church, with the burial in St. Michael's Cemetery, all in Springfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Elms College Development Fund, 291 Springfield Street, Chicopee, MA 01013.

Charles V. Tuttle

Charles ("Chile") V. Tuttle, Jr., 83, of 36 South Florida Drive, Agawam, died on November 25th at Country Estates.

He was a retired carpenter.

Born in Petersburg, New York, he spent his early years in Springfield, where he was a marbles champion at the age of 10.

He attended Springfield Technical High School, and was graduated from Westfield High School.

He moved to Agawam in 1964.

He belonged to the Southwick Boy Scout Troops.

SEE OBITUARIES - Page 9...



Mrs. Gail Elizabeth Borowiec
(October 5, 1941 - December 22, 1995)

We'll love you forever Mom -
You've made our lives complete.
It's been two years - like yesterday,
Your face so pretty, so sweet.
You will always be everything to us,
We're with you every day.
We'll never forget you Mom,
Or the happy life you gave.
Thank God for you!

Your loving family,
Dad ("Papa Mitch"), Susan, Chris, Jeannine, Taylor Gail, Madison, Lynn, Wayne, Garrett, Abigail, Weston, Katie, Gramma D., Gramma K.

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OBITUARIES - from Page 8...

During World War II, he held the rank of lieutenant (junior grade) in the Merchant Marine, and saw action in the Pacific theater.

He was a lifelong member of the Agawam Revolver Club, and was in the Honorable Company of Connecticut Valley Firelock Marksmen and the Harmoni-Cats.

He leaves a son, Weston C. of Lincoln University, Pennsylvania; a daughter, Chilene H. of Agawam; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Colonial Funeral Home, with the burial at the family's convenience.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Lung Association, 393 Maple Street, Springfield, MA 01105.

Margaret Landry

Margaret Landry, 96, of Colonial Haven, Agawam, died at Olympus Specialty Hospital in Springfield.

She worked at Powers Paper Co. of Springfield for 50 years, and retired in 1966.

Born in St. Albans, Vermont, she was a 50-year Springfield resident before moving to Agawam 30 years ago.

She was a communicant of St. John the Evangelist Church, and was in its Women's Guild and the Agawam Golden Agers Club. She was a former communicant of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Springfield.

She leaves nieces and nephews, Ruth Newell and Arlene Myers of Longmeadow, Helen LaMothe of Belchertown, Timothy Babcock of Springfield, James Babcock of Agawam, and Bernard Babcock of Palmer.

The funeral was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home of Agawam and St. John the Evangelist Church, with the burial at St. Michael's Cemetery in Springfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 11 Campus Lane, Easthampton, MA 01027.

Lucy Trigilio

Lucy (Elia) Trigilio, 92, of 50 Dutchess Street, Springfield, died in a local nursing home.

She was a seamstress for Asnoff Clothing of Chicopee for 15 years.

She was born in Italy, then moved to Springfield at the age of 16 and become a lifelong resident.

She was a communicant of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church.

She also was a member of Frattia-Lonza Italian Association, the Italian Sporting Club of Agawam, and the Golden Agers Club.

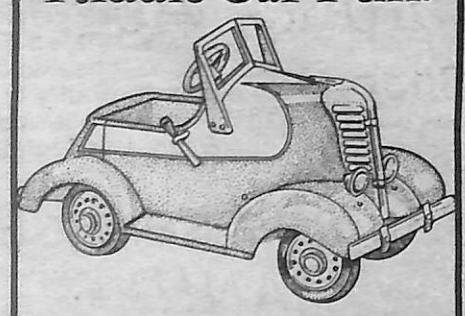
Her husband, Joseph C. Trigilio, died in 1991.

She leaves a son, Paul of Springfield; a brother, Salvatore Elia of Springfield; two sisters, Connie Micelli of Palmer and Lydia Galletti of Springfield; three grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Funeral services were held at the Forastiere-Smith Funeral Home of East Longmeadow, with a Mass of Christian burial at the church, followed by burial in St. Michael's Cemetery.

SEE OBITUARIES - Page 10...

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Local Businesses Help Burned Out Auto Repair Service

On October 6th, the Porth Brothers of Porth Automotive on Washington Avenue Extension in Agawam (next to the Agawam Federal Credit Union) suffered a devastating fire and loss of their entire business which nearly cost them their lives.

However, both brothers the doing well, but still have a long road to recovery.

On the weekend of December 6th and 7th, several local businesses and friends got together to finish the demolition of the remaining structure to remove and dispose of the materials so that at some future date, the Porth brothers can begin reconstruction.

The people involved in this endeavor are Tom Russo of Russo Construction, John Johnson of W & I Construction, John Rosati Trucking, Gary Megliola of Air Sweep, Bill Fini, Al DelNegro, and Joe Misischia.



SEVERAL LOCAL BUSINESSES on the weekend of December 6th and 7th, including Russo Construction, W & I Construction, John Rosati Trucking, Air Sweep, Bill Fini, Al DelNegro, and Joe Misischia helped to finish the demolition of the Porth Brothers Automotive building that was destroyed by fire on October 6th. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



OBITUARIES - from Page 9...

Viola A. Smith

Viola A. (Paquette) Smith of Agawam, 88, a civic and social leader, died at home.

She was a 13-year buyer for the former Forbes & Wallace Department Store, and an 11-year employee of the former Albert E. Steiger Department Store, both in Springfield.

She was the safety instructor at the Dyerbrook Girl Scout Day Camp for many years.

Born in Northampton, she lived in Springfield before moving to Agawam in 1957.

She was given the Andrew Gallano Award in 1990.

She established meals at the Senior Center, and the Meals on Wheels Program.

She was active in the Catholic Women's Club and the Over-60 Group, and served on the Council on Aging board for 15 years.

She also was a director of Greater Springfield Senior Services, a member of the Craftsmen's Guild of Springfield, and a parishioner of St. John the Evangelist Church.

Her husband, Stanley M. Smith, died in 1953.

She leaves a sister, Pauline L. Paquette of Agawam, and nieces and nephews.

The funeral was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home and the church, with the burial at St. Mary's Cemetery in Haydenville.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Pioneer Valley Hospice, P.O. Box 9058, Springfield, MA 01102-9058.

Sylvia E. Trombley

Sylvia E. (Hitchcock) Trombley, 100, of Cooper Street, Agawam, died in a local nursing home.

Born in Hawley, she spent 25 years in Feeding Hills.

Her husband, Edmond Trombley, died in 1939.

She leaves two daughters, Arlene Drewnowski of Feeding Hills and Lena Perry of Athol; a sister, Margaret Hitckcock of Greenfield; 19 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; and 23 great-great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home, with the burial in Bozrah Cemetery in Hawley.

Rep. Keenan Fully Supports Bill For Additional Health Insurance

State Representative Daniel F. Keenan is proud to have added his support to the Legislature's approval of legislation to expand health coverage for children and seniors in Massachusetts. As a result of the bill's enactment, the state can access up to $45 million in new federal revenue.

The bill will expand the Commonwealth's Medicaid program, MassHealth, to cover some 35,000 additional children in low- and moderate-income families; increase benefits for up to 40,000 seniors eligible for prescription drug assistance through the Senior Pharmacy Program; and improve the benefits provided by the Children's Medical Security Plan.

When fully implemented in 1998, every child in Massachusetts will be eligible for health coverage.

"We are ensuring the future of all generations in communities across the state," stated Keenan. "Providing quality health care to those who are in need the most will improve their quality of life."

Keenan concluded that no new state appropriations are required to implement this legislation.

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Families

Irish Clog Dancers Perform At Meeting Of Jr. Women's Club

The Agawam Women's Club was treated to a wonderful program recently by Irish Clog Dancers.

The dancers meet for enjoyment as well as instructions one evening a week and perform for numerous groups in the area under the direction of Jo Sarnelli, who teaches Appalachian Clogging and Cajun dancing.

The January program will be "Come See A New You" by Shaun Grabowski. Bingo, with prizes, will follow.

For further information, call 786-1473 or 786-3091. Guests and new members are always welcome.



THE IRISH CLOG DANCERS recently provided the entertainment for a meeting of the Agawam Jr. Women's Club at the Captain Charles Leonard House.

Agawam/Feeding Hills AARP Slates Annual Christmas Party

The Agawam/Feeding Hills Chapter of AARP will meet at the Agawam Senior Center for its annual Christmas party on Monday, December 22nd, at 1:00 p.m.

This will be a luncheon followed by a fun time of game playing. Members are urged to attend and join in our Christmas celebration.

Happy Holidays

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Angel Alert! Create A Safe Community...

Have you seen the effect of Oprah Winfrey's angel network? She has inspired a multitude of people to commit random acts of kindness, such as collecting people's pennies for America's largest piggy bank for scholarships, and encouraging large corporations to help build homes for those who couldn't afford them otherwise.

What wonderful deeds! She has shown that every little act matters, and every person counts.

"Nobody is nobody, everybody is somebody"

"One person cannot accomplish anything alone," said Nancy "Rainbow" Shaer of Feeding Hills. "I know, and I can tell you nobody else is going to do what needs to be done for us; we must do it ourselves. As one person, I had a dream come true to me ... **S.A.F.E. — SOBRIETY ALWAYS FAVORS EVERYONE."**

She continued, "It was a dream that when I awoke, I knew it was powerful. I felt excited and full of energy. I told my mother, Ruth 'Full Moon,' about my dream and told her I thought maybe a good way to get this message out into the community (then the world) was to make up some bumper stickers. She supported me in this idea."

Full Moon unexpectedly passed to spirit last May before she and Nancy got a chance to work on this dream. "For a while, I became very quiet and felt very empty," admitted Nancy. "It was hard for me to lose my mother. She was a big part of my life. But, after much prayer, God opened another door and I shared my dream with a friend of many moons, Elizabeth Greenway, owner of Walnut Street Cleaners in Agawam."

Nancy added, "She, too, felt strongly that this is a dream that needs to be fulfilled, and that the S.A.F.E. message can make big changes with its new positive energy. Elizabeth also felt that it is important that we bring this out to the public now — during this holiday time — because for many it is not so joyous, for they have losses and bereavement and too many seek solace in drugs and alcohol."

This dream, according to her, was not just for one of God's Angels, but a community of Angels — YOU AND ME ... US! In this dream of hers, a strong message was given that we take responsibility and begin to love and respect ourselves and others. We can create a safe community and a safe world by thinking, living, and driving **S.A.F.E. — SOBRIETY ALWAYS FAVORS EVERYONE,** and this is a first step to creating a S.A.F.E. (safe) community.

"We must set the example for our young people by living it," said Nancy, "and our young people must set the example by living it for their peers and those even younger than themselves. In the language of my Cherokee heritage, we say, "Walk your talk.' It is not easy, but it is necessary.

SEE COMMUNITY ANGELS - Page 13...



NANCY RAINBOW SHAER of Feeding Hills (top photo, right) is a community crusader for driving while sober and brings the message of S.A.F.E. (Sobriety Always Favors Everyone) to as many people as possible. Elizabeth Greenway owner of Walnut Street Cleaners, accepts S.A.F.E. bumper stickers from Rainbow Shaer to pass around to her customers. Rainbow is the author/illustrator (along with her son, Chris "Blue Fox" of *"Billy Frog Adventures - Spiritual Wisdom of A Native American"* and is supported in part by a grant from the Agawam Cultural Council.



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COMMUNITY ANGELS - from Page 12...

"This is a good world," she continued, "and it has some bad things in it; it is a good community, and it has some bad things in it. We can make it a better community, and the best community, by making it a **S.A.F.E.** community not only for the holiday times, but every day, all the time.

"Day by day, we need to support one another. **'We are all connected in a circle in a hoop that never ends...'"** - *Walt Disney's Pocahontas.*

Be an Angel — buy a **S.A.F.E.** bumper sticker and support being a **S.A.F.E.** community. These bumper stickers are available at Walnut Street Cleaners, 380 Walnut Street Extention, Agawam, MA.

Nancy and Elizabeth wish everyone a **S.A.F.E.** day and the peace and blessings of the holiday season. "Wado (thank you)," concluded Nancy.

Open Pantry Offers Christmas Day Dinner At Civic Center

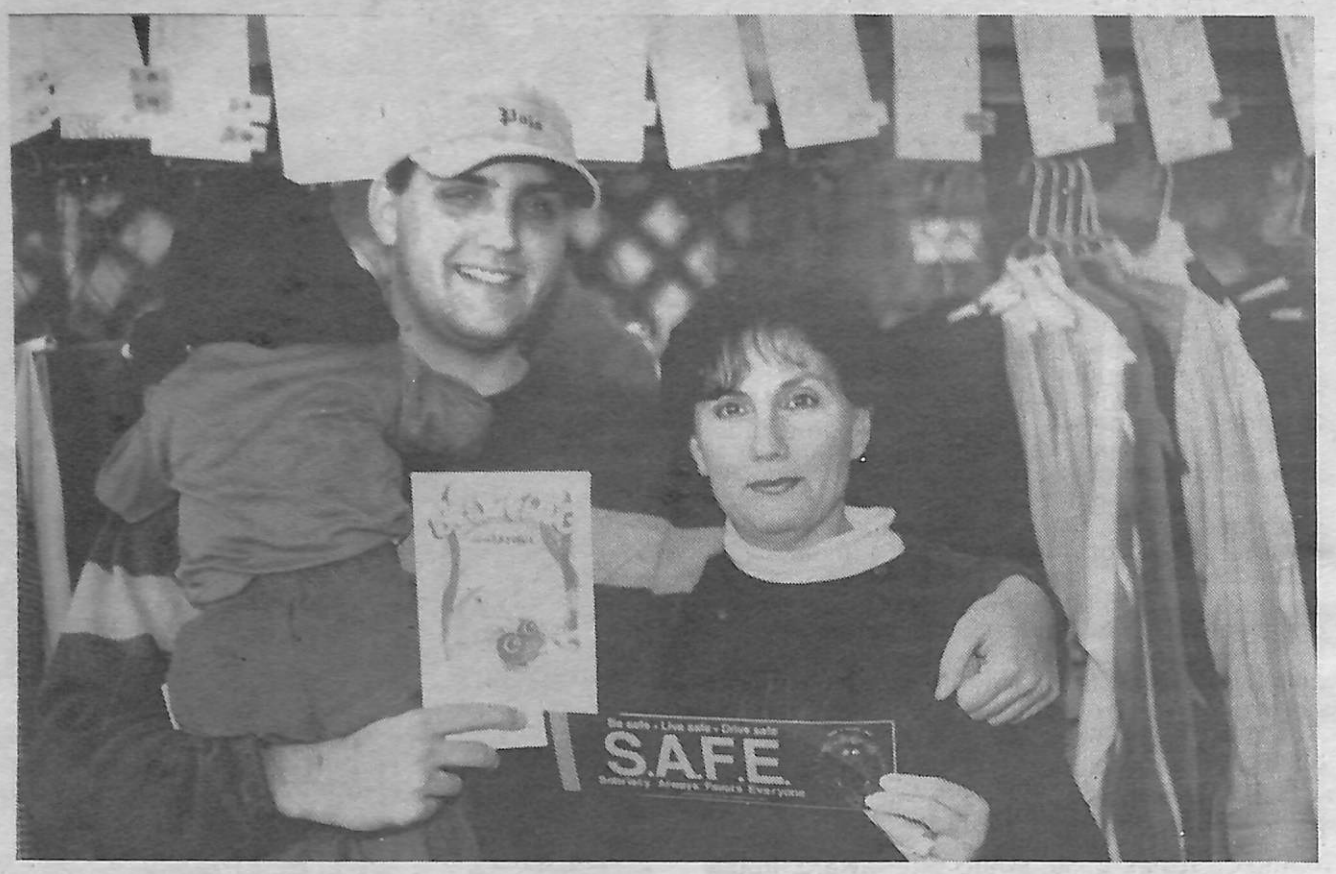
Open Pantry Community Services, Inc., a community service agency which provides shelter, social work advocacy, daily meals, and emergency groceries to the poor and homeless, will hold its 13th annual Christmas Day Dinner at 12:00 noon at the Springfield Civic Center on December 25th.

Anyone who would like to share in this community meal is welcome to attend, and there is no admission fee. Transportation to the Civic Center can be arranged for people unable to get there on their own. If a ride is needed, please call 737-5354 between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Any contributions of desserts (pies, cakes, and cookies) and fruit will be greatly appreciated. The food items may be dropped off at the Civic Center after 9:00 a.m. on Christmas Day. Financial donations may be sent to the Open Pantry Community Services, Inc., P.O. Box 5127, Springfield, MA 01101-5127.

We have much to be thankful for. Let's share it with others.

best local news...



WALNUT STREET CLEANERS owner and operator Elizabeth Greenway, and her son, Tom, are both strong supporters of Nancy Rainbow Shaer's many causes for humanity, including driving while sober campaign.

Naval Petty Officer Roy L. Hill Reports For Duty On Carrier Truman

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Roy L. Hill, a 1987 graduate of Agawam High School, recently reported for duty with the aircraft carrier Precommissioning Unit Harry S. Truman, based at Newport News, Virginia.

Hill's new assignment is an example of how Navy and Marine Corps men and women are assigned to ships, squadrons, and shore commands around the world.

Whether serving in the Persian Gulf near Iraq or in the Adriatic Sea near Bosnia, people like Hill are making a difference as they work to improve their knowledge and skill as part of the most highly technical naval force in history.

He joined the Navy in July 1987.

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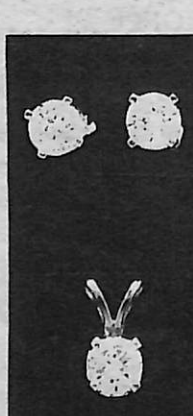
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Rusty Jenks & His Little Red Fire Truck That Would & Could

by Peggy Shoemaker
Advertiser News Feature Writer

Retired Fire Chief Russell Jenks of Feeding Hills has a shiny little red 1930 fire engine he has restored that has brought home approximately two dozen awards and trophies.

In fact, the small fire truck has won awards as high as it can go on the national scene. The highest award given, the "Masters' Award," was presented to Jenks by the Model A Ford Restorers' Club of America (MARC) in June 1997 in Dayton, Ohio.

This is not a competition between vehicles, but one's entry is measured by a point system, Jenks explained in a recent interview. Five hundred points are for an assembly line perfect vehicle. Achieving 425 points entitles one to the "Masters' Award," and Jenks' fire engine merited 425 points.

A prerequisite to this is an "Award of Excellence in Fire Apparatus." Jenks won this in Rochester, New York in 1996.

And so it has gone, award after award, trophy after trophy for the past few years. Jenks, known as Rusty, estimates they have won approximately two dozen trophies, but he has never kept them together so he loses track of them around the house. The awards are varied in appearance, from cups to a six-foot trophy won in July 1995 in Hudson, New York.

"Best Appearing Antique Fire Apparatus..."

The little fire engine took "Best Appearing Antique Fire Apparatus in Show." This is a memorial trophy named after Hudson Fire Chief James Murray. Rusty and his wife, Joan, who travels with him, left the meet early because of the long trip home. They got a telephone call informing him they had won and since the trophy, which stands on columns, is six feet tall, it couldn't be mailed. So they had to return to Hudson to get it.

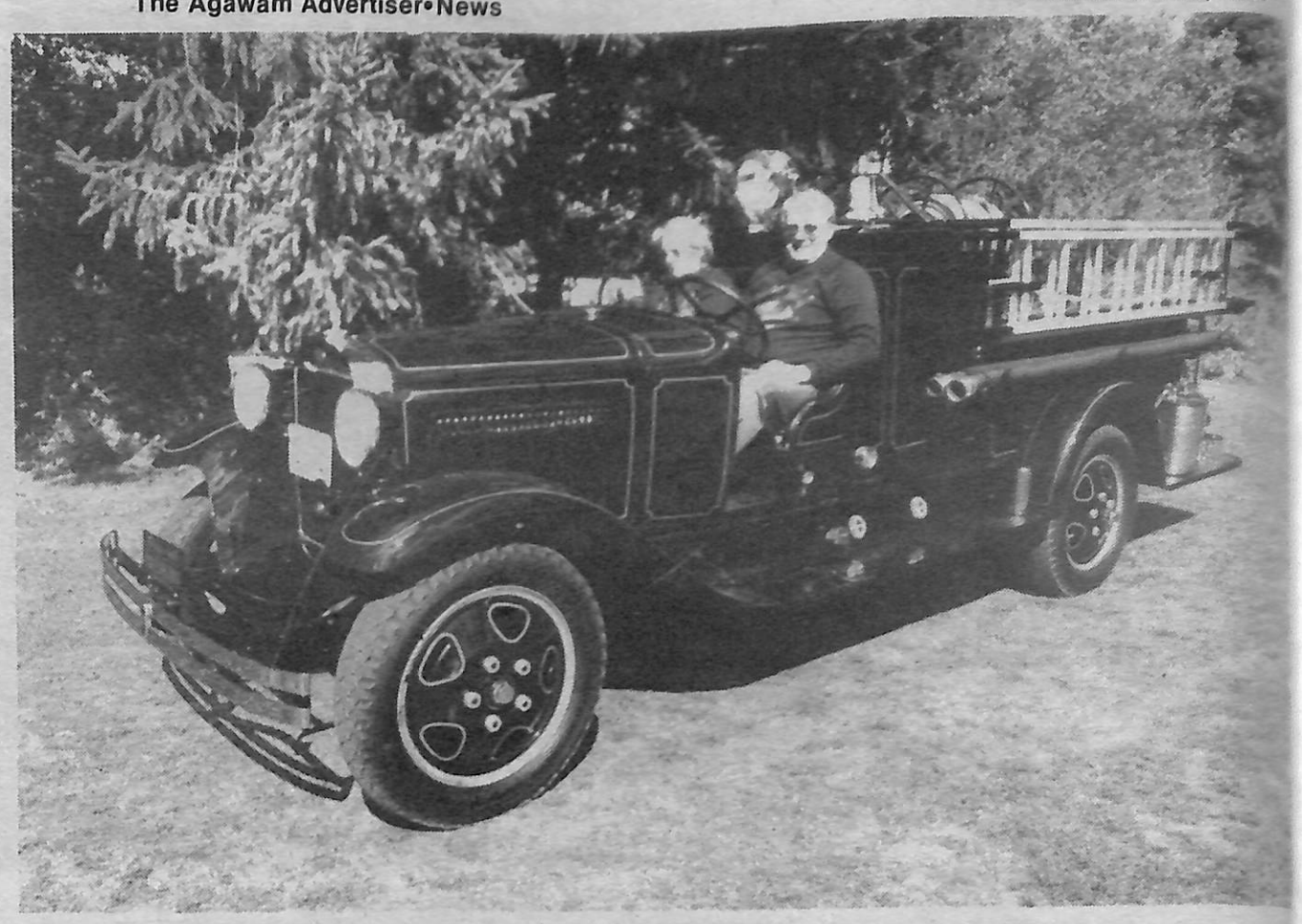
Jenks rode the fire truck in the New England Association of Fire Chiefs, Inc. Anniversary Parade this year, and won the "Best in Show" award in New England at a three-day meet in Pittsfield last year. The trophy for the latter award is a clock with a quail painted on it.

Each parade and meet has a story of competition, friendships, and pride. In Dayton, Ohio in June, the theme of the show was "Where Wings and Wheels Meet." More than 800 Model A airplanes and vehicles entered, Jenks said. He won a blue ribbon extended from a round disc that pictures a 1929 Ford Tri-Motor airplane flying above a Model A coupe.

When Mashpee, Massachusetts Fire Chief Ellsworth Peters, an Indian, died in 1969, the Model "AA" fire engine led the funeral procession from a funeral home in Sandwich to the Indian burial grounds in Mashpee (carrying Peters' casket).

Then there is a Bell Award, resembling an old-fashioned school bell, that the engine was awarded in Belltown, Connecticut, and the Agawam Lions Club Annual Classic and Antique Auto Show held at the Polish Club in Feeding Hills. And there are many more.

When a fire engine is no longer used for the purpose for which it was built, and is retired to a museum, one would think its active life is over.



RUSTY & JOAN JENKS are proud as peacocks of their award-winning little red fire truck, a 1930 AA Ford/Leonard Fire Engine.

But not this little engine, which under Jenks' supervision, took on a second life.

"Pride & Joy"

Jenks' "pride and joy" is a 1930 AA-Ford/Leonard Fire Engine. Its building was commissioned in Centerville-Osterville Fire District of Cape Cod at a cost of $4,400. The Leonard Foundry in Osterville built the fire truck, which is smaller than most because it was designed for grass and brush fires. A Ford AA cowl and chassis was purchased from a local Ford dealer. The truck operated from the Centerville Fire Station, which also made available a Maxim pumper for structure fires.

The name Mashpee replaced Osterville on the side panel when in 1942, the fire engine was sold to the town of Mashpee. It was that town's first fire engine. Town fathers doubled the booster water tank to 300 gallons, added dual wheels to the rear, and four inches to the center of the rear fenders. The vehicle was removed from service in 1971, but was registered in Mashpee until 1981.

Mashpee turned the engine over to the New England Fire and History Museum in Brewster, Massachusetts, where Rusty Jenks claimed it in 1989.

When Jenks retired from the Agawam Fire Department in 1993, he started the restoration project that took two years, and he said he loved every minute of it. Piece-by-piece, every nut and bolt was removed down to the frame. The parts Mashpee had added were removed to restore the engine to its original state.

Each part was cleaned and refinished, Jenks explained. A warm winter permitted him to sand-blast the chassis pieces. Then the primer, three or four coats of red lacquer, and clear enamel were added. The clear enamel gives a high shine and is a sealer. The bumpers, radiator bell, siren, and spotlight were re-chromed to perfection. Rusty really gets into it, walking around the beautiful rebuilt fire engine and explaining all its details.

Model A gold paint was used for the striping that was done by a former member of the Agawam Fire Department. It is a four cyclinder, four shift truck. The engine had never been rebuilt and had the original Ford script spring hangers and kingpins. The transmission only needed new bearings and gaskets. New seals were installed in the rear end, brake and clutch pedals, and shaft and bushings were replaced, Jenks said.

When restoration was completed in 1995, the Mode AA fire engine was sent back to Mashpee for its 10th anniversary parade. The engine was in its first meet at Atlantic City, New Jersey. Joan and Rusty travel to nearby events in the fire engine and have a trailer to convey it longer distances.

The former Fire Chief has albums of photos showing each step of the restoration, as well as events they have attended. Since the "little fire engine that could" has achieved all the awards offered, Jenks said it will be used in the future in parades for show and for educational purposes.

Rusty joined the Agawam Fire Department in 1954 and became chief in 1981. He retired in 1993. The grandson of a volunteer fireman, he is an Agawam native. Joan came from Springfield. The couple are members of the Agawam Historical Society with a special interest in the museum being made in the former Elm Street Fire House in Agawam Center.

Rusty spent 35-40 hours putting together a model kit of the former Fire House, which he keeps under glass. The couple owns six other antique vehicles, five of them Model A's.

"So what does a fire chief do when he retires?" Jenks joked. "He buys a fire engine to restore and enjoys it!"

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Historic Items Being Sold To Raise Funds For Fire Museum

In its effort to raise funds for the renovation of the former Elm Street fire station into the Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum, the Agawam Historical Association is offering a number of items for sale in time for holiday gift-giving.

In addition to a commemorative poster, notecard, and postcard featuring Adrienne Lacey's painting of the Elm Street Station, the Historical Association is offering two commemorative pins: a bronze depiction of the new Fire Department headquarters, and a pewter depiction of the Elm Street Station.

A set of four coffee mugs has also been created, featuring the Elm Street Station on one side and antique fire equipment on the reverse.

For the model train enthusiast, an HO gauge model kit of the Elm Street Station is available. An assembled model of this intricately detailed kit is on display in the lobby of the Agawam Public Library throughout the month of December.

Bird lovers have not been forgotten either—a sturdy replica of the Elm Street Station has been crafted as a birdhouse, complete with shingles and cleanout.

The town history book by Edith LaFrancis is also available for sale.

All items for sale are on display in the lobby of the Agawam Public Library throughout the month of December. Items are available for purchase at the Agawam Fire Department Headquarters on Main Street from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and also from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Monday, December 22nd.

For more information or to purchase any of these items, please contact Carol or Bill Miller at 786-7329, or the Agawam Fire Department Headquarters at 786-0657.

All proceeds will be used toward the renovation of the Elm Street Station, which is estimated to cost $30,000. To date, some $15,000 has been raised.



AGAWAM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION members, from left - Russ Jenks, Rick Bellico, Ann Bellico, Joan Jenks hold items now being sold for the holidays to raise funds for the Agawam Historical & Fire Museum. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Disability Van Service To Be Discussed At Agawam Senior Center

On Thursday, January 8th, from 12:15 to 1:00 p.m., a meeting to discuss the Americans' Disabilities Act (ADA) will take place at the Agawam Senior Center.

Mary Ellen Alicandri, mobility trainer from the PVTA, will provide us with an informational presentation. PTVA provides van service for passengers who are unable to use the bus due to a disability. Questions and answers on service eligibility will be discussed, and applications will be available for those needing this service.

For further information, call 789-7199.
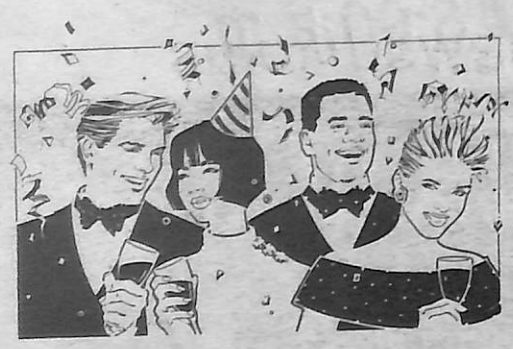
EARLY DEADLINE: Sunday, December 21st

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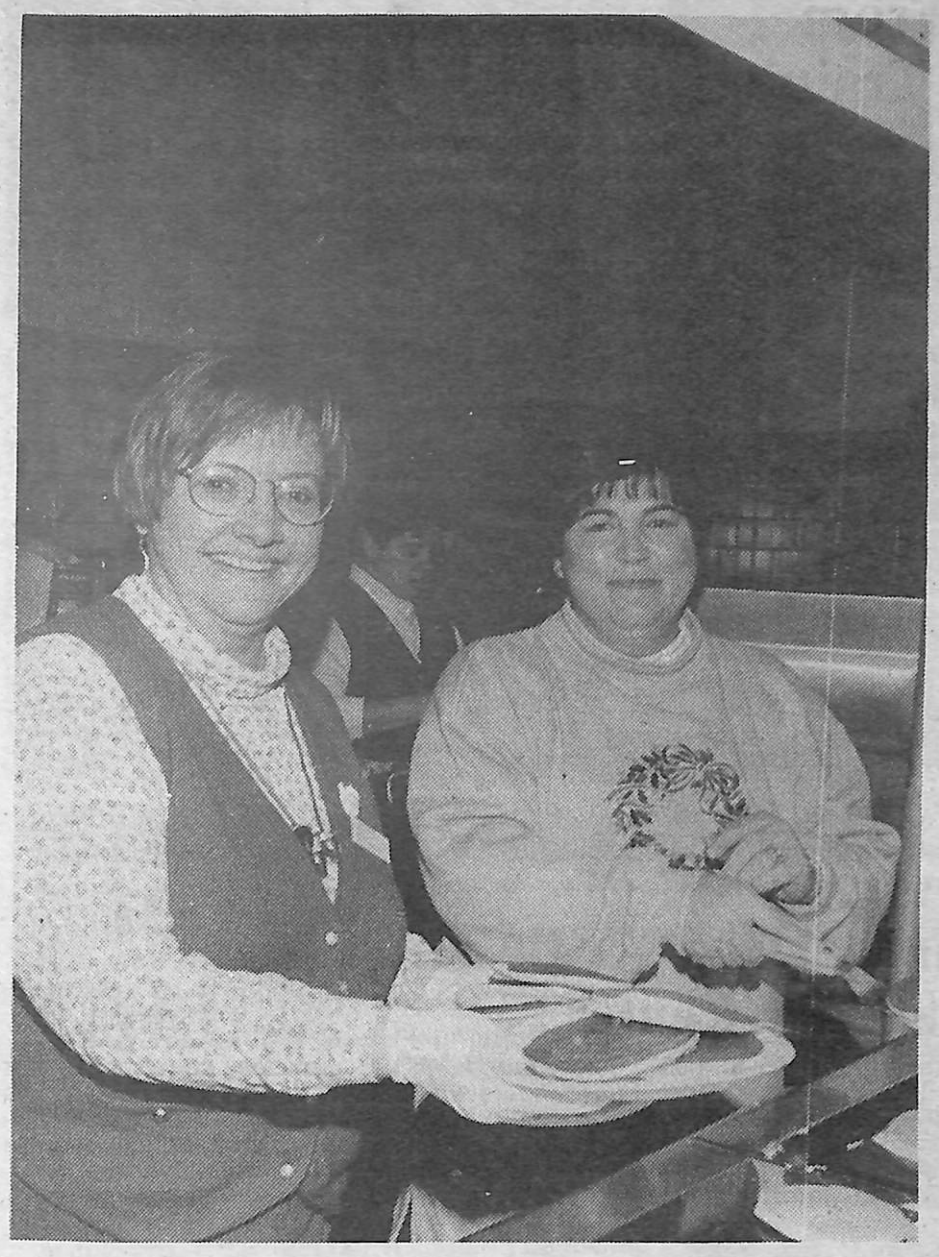


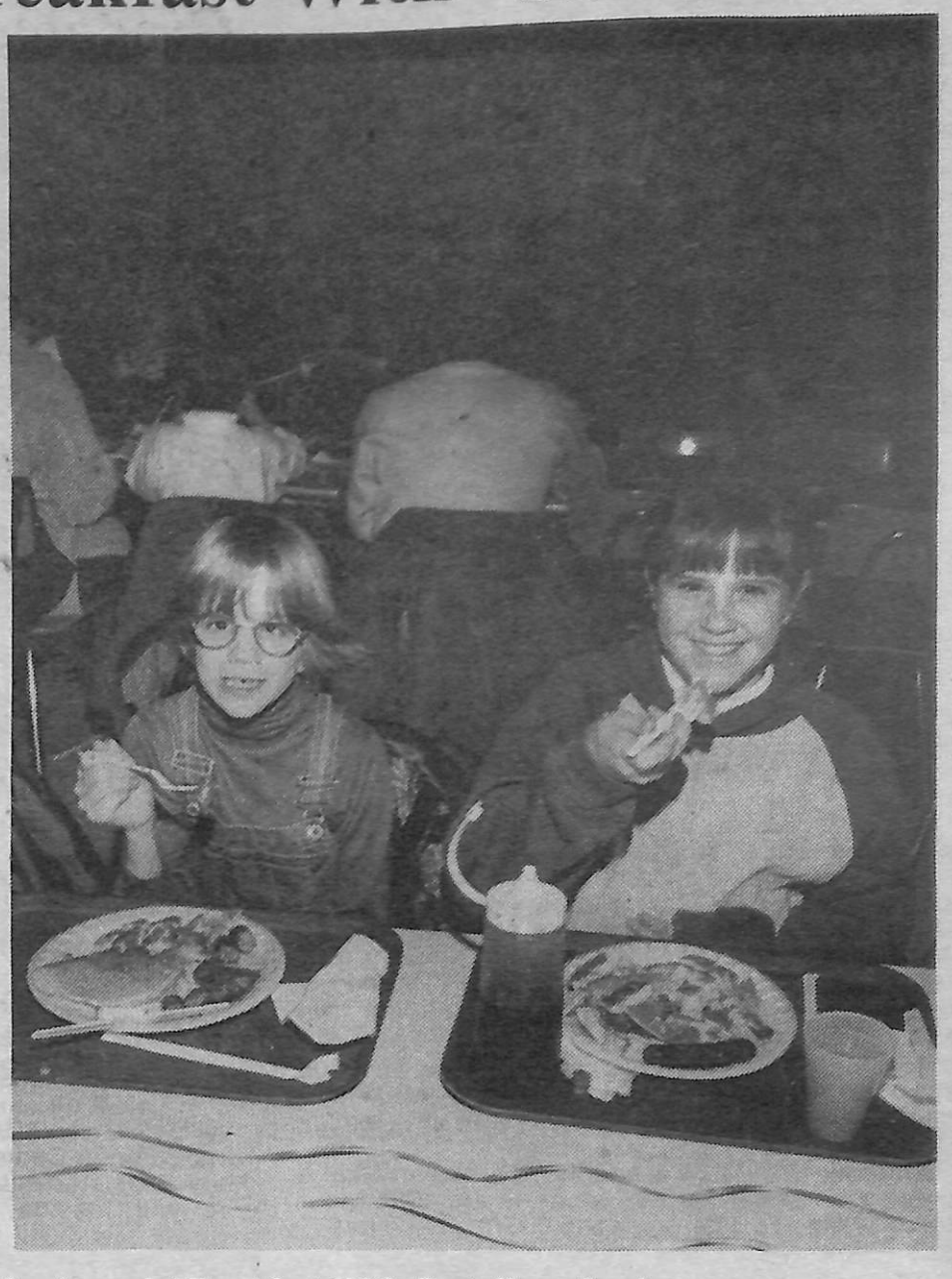
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Jr. Women's Club's "Breakfast With Santa"





THE AGAWAM JUNIOR WOMEN'S CLUB held its Annual "Breakfast With Santa" on Sunday, December 7th, at the Agawam Middle School. (SEE RELATED PHOTO ON PAGE 1). From left - Ann Woodward and Mary O'Connell were two of the kitchen helpers; in photo right, Kimberly & Susan Krapf enjoy their pancakes and sausage. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

Ag. Senior Center's Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, December 22nd: Hamburg gravy on mashed potatoes, peas/carrots, whole wheat bread, fresh pear.

Tuesday, December 23rd: Tomato & rice soup, chicken cutlet on a roll with tomato & lettuce, tapioca pudding.

Wednesday, December 24th: 9:00 a.m. brunch — breakfast sandwich (Canadian bacon & cheese on an English muffin), hash browns, orange juice.

Thursday, December 25th: Christmas Day (Senior Center closed).

Friday, December 26th: Salisbury steak with gravy, steamed spinach, potatoes, rye bread, apricots.

CCBA Planning New Year's Eve Gala At Ferruccio's On Main Street

The public is invited to attend a New Year's Eve Gala, December 31, 1997 at Ferruccio's, 1520 Main St., Agawam.

Start your evening with cocktail hour with hors d'oeuvres at 7:00 p.m., followed by dinner and dancing. Tickets are $40 per person/cash bar.

Dinner will include antipasto, ziti, and broccoli served at table and prime rib, chicken champagne, veal tenders, red potato, green beans, carrots, and rolls served buffet style.

A dessert buffet with cakes, cookies, cheesecakes, fruits, etc. served later in the evening.

This extravaganza is sponsored by the Concerned Citizens and Business of Agawam. Please join us in celebrating all our victories and start the New Year helping us with our latest victory. A portion of the ticket sale will go to the legal funds.

For more information and tickets, please contact Judy Stieg at 786-6964 or tickets can be purchased at Maria's Restaurant, 605 Silver Street, Agawam.

Early Deadline - Sunday, December 21st at noontime. We open at 8:00 a.m.

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BABY VERONICA S. KOZAK

The Kozak Family Announces Birth Of Daughter, Veronica

Jeffery & Ellie Kozak are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Veronica Sheila Kozak.

She was born at Wesson Women's on November 25, 1997 at 11:16 p.m.. She weighed eight pounds, 10 ounces, and was 20½ inches long.

The maternal grandparent are Henry & Sheila Mercolino of Feeding Hills. The paternal grandparents are Donna Kozak of Chicopee, and Richard & Cindy Kozak of Feeding Hills.

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2nd Lt. Derek Innarelli Graduates From Specialized Training

Second Lt. Derek Innarelli, who recently graduated from Joint Specialized Undergraduate Training on October 24, 1997 at Vance Air Force Base in Enid, Oklahoma, was awarded the AETC Commander's Trophy for being the top overall graduate in the fighter/bomber group.

He also received the Flying Training and Distinguished Graduate Awards. Since receiving his Pilot wings, he has gone on to Columbus Air Force Base in Columbus, Mississippi for Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals.

Upon completion of this eight-week training period, Derek will be stationed at Tindell Air Force Base in Panama City, Florida for seven months of training on the F-15 Fighter Jet.

Innarelli, a 1989 graduate of Agawam High School and 1993 graduate of The Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Florida, is the son of Mrs. Carla Dempsey of Feeding Hills and Mr. Louis Innarelli of Westfield, and the grandson of Mrs. Grace Kinney of Feeding Hills.



2ND LT. DEREK INNARELLI

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A la carte includes salad
Prix fixe includes salad, appetizer or soup, choice of entree, dessert, coffee or tea.

Appetizers:

Zuppa di New Year's — cup - **$4.50**/bowl - **$5.95**
Maine lobster with roasted red pepper and corn bisque

Rock shrimp and angel hair fritters — **$7.95**
deep fried whole wheat batter seasoned with lemongrass, oregano and chilis with sweet, hot and sour sauce

Calamari con crostini — **$7.95**
calamari in a spicy jalapeno Bistro sauce over foccaccia crouton

Roasted Portabello Mushroom — **$7.95**
with garlic herb goat cheese stuffing

Canadian Pork Roulade — **$7.95**
tenderloin rolled with sundried cherries and figs in a dijon mustard bourbon brown sauce

Entrees:

Chicken Porcini Gorgonzola — a la carte - **$17.95**, Prix fixe - **$29.95**
sauteed with garlic, green onions and sherry tossed with penne

Bayou chicken — a la carte - **$18.95**, Prix fixe - **$30.95**
sauteed boneless skinless free range breast with Andouille sausage, artichoke hearts, fresh sage and thyme in a tomato reduction sauce served with Bistro polenta and vegetables

Bistro tenderloin — a la carte - **$22.95**, Prix fixe - **$34.95**
certified Black Angus medallions in a portabello mushroom gorgonzola roasted garlic demi-glace with smashed potatoes and vegetables

Pan-seared Salmon — a la carte - **$20.95**, Prix fixe - **$32.95**
black and white sesame crusted, presented with an Asian black bean butter, Bistro polenta and vegetables

Rack of New Zealand Lamb — a la carte - **$24.95**, Prix fixe - **$36.95**
char-grilled finished with a ginger hoisin glaze presented with smashed potatoes and vegetables

Red Snapper — a la carte - **$23.95**, Prix fixe - **$35.95**
oak grilled Florida Gulf filet finished with a prickly pear beurre blanc, Bistro polenta and vegetables

Desserts:

White chocolate mousse with cactus pear couli — **$5.95**
Pate of Bittersweet Belgian chocolate with Sambuca — **$5.95**
Espresso lemon zest cheesecake — **$5.95**
Fresh fruit tart zabaglione — **$5.95**

* Children's menu available upon request

Golden Age Chapter 2 Holds Christmas Party At Chez Josef

President Perry McCobb and his wife, Rose, welcomed members of Agawam Golden Age Club, Chapter 2, to the Annual Christmas Party held in the Tivoli Room of Chez Josef in Agawam on Wednesday, December 3rd.

Festivities began at 11:00 a.m. with a social hour for the holiday-dressed seniors who sipped tasty eggnog and ate crackers with cheese dips while visiting excitedly with their many friends. Promptly at 12:00 noon, president McCobb led the happy seniors in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and he called Club Chaplain Leanore Dion to the podium to offer an opening prayer.

Following the banquet, Perry expressed thanks and deep appreciation to the members of the party committee: Arthur & Eileen Collier and Barbara Sherry, ticket sales; Edward Grimes, table reservations; and Virginia Lake, entertainment. Perry handled site and menu selection with compliments to Chez Josef personnel for the delicious food, the prompt service, and the attractive Christmas decorations.

Program chairperson Virginia Lake introduced the talented male vocalist Mike Landry and his wife, Elaine, who delighted the merry seniors with a choice selection of familiar songs and encouraged audience participation.

The closing song was *"God Bless America"* which was sung with enthusiasm by everyone present. It was a memorable and enjoyable Christmas party.



SOME OF THE GOLDEN AGE CLUB CHAPTER 2 members who attended the Annual Christmas Party at Chez Josef included - Kenneth & Marjorie Conway, Thomas & Eleanor Carney, Ray & Virgina Ross; and Alice & Edward Morytko. RELATED PHOTO ON PAGE 20. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



AGAWAM GOLDEN AGE CLUB MEMBERS (Chapter 2) at their Annual Christmas Party at Chez Josef. Back row - Vickie Natale, Chris Balch, Alice Longley, and Phil Fenton. Front row - Annette Phaneuf, Ed Grimes, Kay Arnold, Anne Roberts, and Millie Rumsey. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine. SEE RELATED PHOTO ON PAGE 20. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Yoga For Seniors At Heritage Woods Starting January 7th

Heritage Woods Assisted Living is pleased to announce the return of "Yoga for Seniors." Back by popular demand, the program was so well received that we will be offering weekly classes open to the public beginning in the New Year.

Rita Frechette, a certified Kripalu Yoga Teacher and a certified Kripalu Bodyworker, leads the classes which emphasize a body centered approach enabling students to practice postures with safe technique and alignment.

Rita is a member of the Kripalu Yoga Teachers Association and presently teaches at the Wilbraham Senior Center, the Bevin-Kelly Rest Home in Holyoke, and is affiliated with Heartsong Yoga Center in East Longmeadow.

Classes are scheduled for every Wednesday from 10:00 -11:00 a.m. beginning on January 7, 1998 at Heritage Woods in the Agawam Activities Center.

Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, call (413) 786-9704. Gift certificates for classes are also available.

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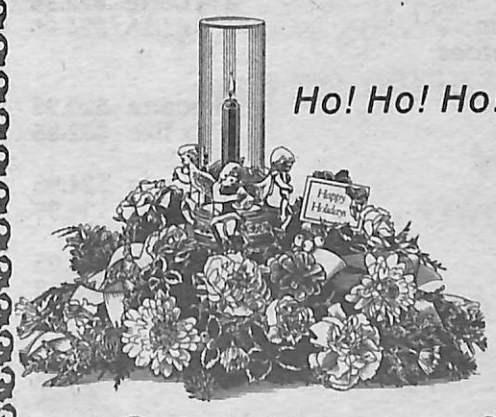
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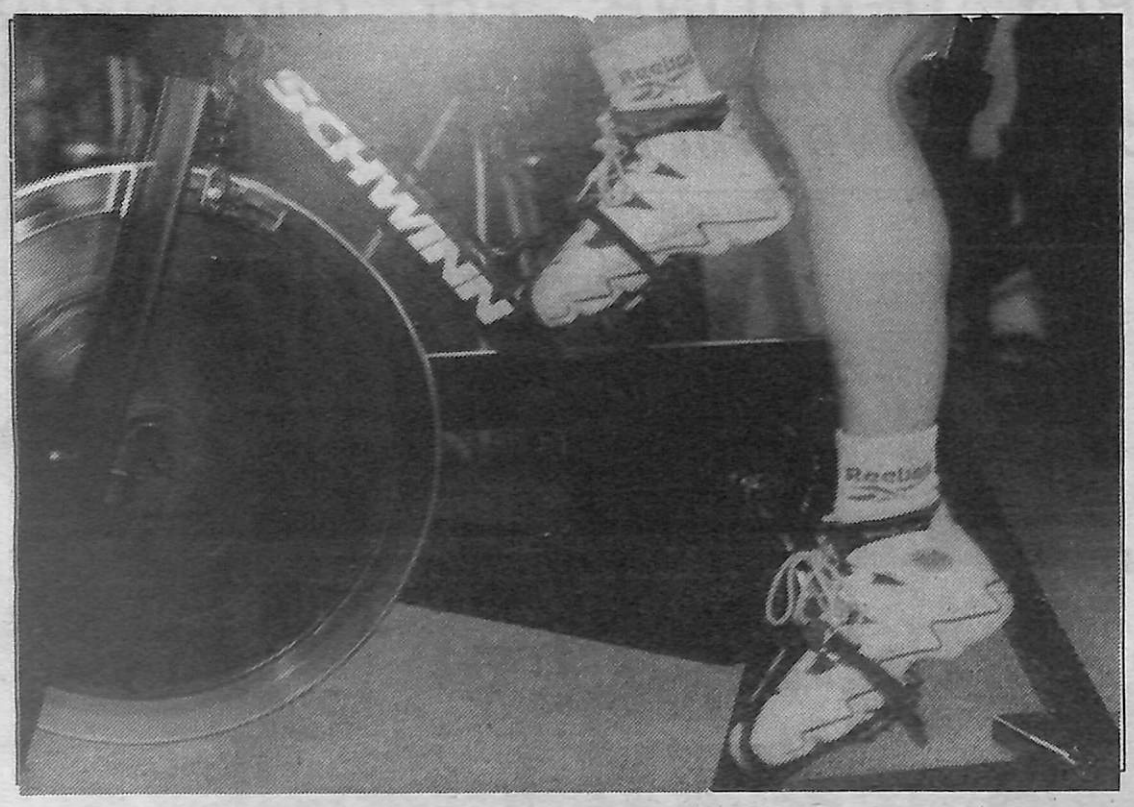
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MR. & MRS. MARK R. FOURNIER

Darci K. Barnes Becomes Bride Of Mark R. Fournier

Darci K. Barnes, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Donald Barnes, Sr. of Southwick, married Mark R. Fournier, son of Mr. & Mrs. Roland Fournier of Feeding Hills.

The Rev. David Teague officiated the ceremony at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 27th, at the First Congregational Church in Westfield, accompanied by organist Alan Taylor and vocalist Kirsten Taylor.

Danielle Bewsee, sister of the bride, was the maid of honor. The bridemaids were Dawn Fournier, sister of the groom, and Judy Carlin, friend of the bride.

James Plasse, cousin of the groom, was the best man. The ushers Donald Barnes, Jr., brother of the bride, and Alan Plasse, cousin of the groom.

The couple received 120 guests at the Tekoa Country Club and honeymooned in Washington D.C. and Williamsburg, Virginia. They will reside in Westfield.

The bride is a graduate of Westfield High School and Simmons College. She is a physical therapist at Westhills Home Health and Hospice, Inc.

The bride is a graduate of Westfield High School and Simmons College. She is a physical therapist at Westhills Home Health and Hospice, Inc.

The groom was graduated from Agawam High School and Westfield State College. He is self-employed.

For the best in local goods & services, be sure to check our classified ads in each edition

Golden Age Club Chapter 2 Christmas Party



MEMBERS OF THE AGAWAM GOLDEN AGE CLUB Chapter 2 who attended the Annual Christmas Party at Chez Josef included - Albert D'Agostino, Harry Durant, Betty Durant, Louise Scherpa, Louis Scherpa, Barbara D'Agostino, Barbara Swanson, Ernest Swanson, Else Osypuk, and Paul Osypuk. RELATED PHOTOS ON PAGE 18. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Holiday Ornaments Now Available By Agawam Junior Women's Club

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is pleased to announce that the 1997 Holiday Ornament is in, and available, at the following stores: The Feeding Hills Public Market, The Agawam Public Market, Surprise! Card & Gift, and the Corner Deli.

This year's ornament features Agawam's own Town Seal. The Town of Agawam was incorporated on May 17, 1855 after separating from the Town of West Springfield.

This is the Club's seventh ornament in a series featuring historical site in our hometown. Most of the previous years' ornaments are sold out. However, we do have a few of the 1992 ornament featuring the Old Agawam Center Library and a few of the 1996 ornament featuring the Agawam Fire House.

These ornaments have started a tradition with many families in Agawam and the Agawam Junior Women's Club is proud to be a part of that! You can purchase one of these ornaments for $5 at any of the stores listed above. If you're interested in a 1992 or 1996 ornament, please call Pam Quirk at 789-3274 or Betty Vershon at 786-4357. The Club *will be glad to get one to you.*

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Club of Massachusetts.

EARLY DEADLINE: For our Annual Christmas edition, Sunday, Dec. 21st, at noontime. We will be in all weekend.

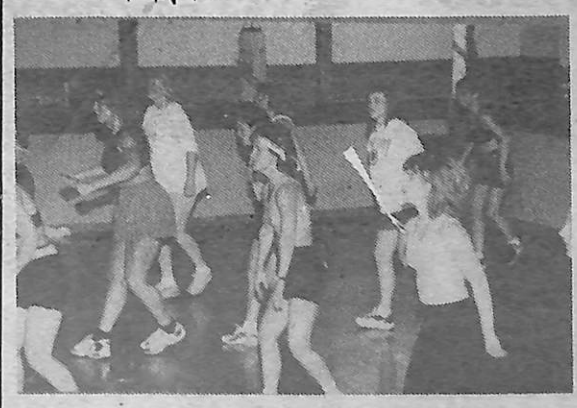
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MR. & MRS. JASON M. PAJAK

Beth A. McEwan Becomes Bride Of Jason M. Pajak

Trinity Methodist Church in Springfield was the setting for the recent wedding of Beth A. McEwan and Jason M. Pajak.

The bride is the daughter of Mary & Ralph McEwan, Jr. of Feeding Hills. The parents of the bridegroom are Barbara & Ronald Pajak of York, Maine.

Melissa Silk attended the bride as maid of honor with bridesmaids Gina Casagranda, Alicia Ferris, Lisa Taylor-Zmuda, and Melissa Rae. Joseph Lychwala served as best man with Bryan McEwan, Steve Koske, Bly Finn, and Brian Pajak as ushers.

The bride graduated from Agawam High School and Bentley College in Waltham with a bachelor's degree in business management. She is a Conversion Analyst with Mass Mutual Life Insurance Company in Springfield.

The bridegroom is a graduate of Agawam High School and is employed by V & F Parts and Service in Agawam.

John Rose Promoted To Master Sergeant By National Guard

John Rose of 139 Poplar St., Feeding Hills, a lifelong resident of Agawam, has been promoted to Master Sergeant (MSG) of the Mass. Army National Guard.

Master Sergeant Rose holds the highest rank for a Motor Sergeant in the Mass. Army National Guard. Over the past 28 years of service to the National Guard, MSG Rose has served as a mechanic in HHC 1-104 Infantry-Westfield, Motor Sergeant in: CSC 1-104 Infantry-Holyoke, 3rd Brigade-Springfield, D Co 126 AVN-Westover and is currently serving in the 26th Infantry Brigade-Springfield.

MSG Rose's duties include providing maintenance support for Mass. Army National Guard units from Worcester to Pittsfield. MSG Rose's biggest challenge will come over the next few years maintaing an 11 year-old fleet for state emergencies and National Defense because of cutbacks in repair parts and military funding.

One of the reasons for MSG Rose's promotion was his ability not only to manage a maintenance section but to win an Army Maintenance Award for his unit while working with limited manpower and funding.

MSG Rose's goal for 1998 is to use his 28 years of experience, contacts, and management skills to provide maintenance support for the 26th Infantry Brigade by maintaining the equipment in an operational ready state.



MASTER SERGEANT JOHN ROSE

Senior Center Seeks Volunteers To Help The Elderly With Shoveling Snow This Winter

The Agawam Senior Center is seeking volunteers to assist town elders in shoveling walks and driveways around their homes. A recent snowstorm did not allow the center to deliver meals from its Meals on Wheels Program.

"Snowstorms can further isolate homebound elders by not allowing us to visit them, deliver their meals, or not allowing them to walk to their mailbox," said Council on Aging Director Richard Mundo.

The Center is hoping that churches, schools, and community groups will see this as an opportunity for their younger members to fulfill community service responsibilities.

To sign-up as a volunteer or for more information, call the Senior Center at 786-0400.

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Let us give you a very special gift this holiday season...

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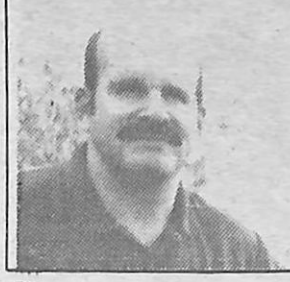
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Agawam

Church News

Reflections...



submitted by
Rev. Peter Monahan
Pastor of the Church of the Apostles.
Suffield, CT
(860) 668-4444 or
(413) 786-8735

Christmas Is A Birthday Party

Oh no, here we go again! Already, it's that time of year. Where does the time fly? It seems like it was just yesterday that we were thinking about getting ready for Christmas. Now, Christmas is only days away. From here on in, the retailers will constantly be reminding us that there are only so many shopping days left until Christmas.

With all the hustle and bustle of the holidays, the racing between this store and that, not to mention running between the pageants and the parties, it is all too easy to lose sight of what Christmas is all about. Indeed, it is almost inevitable.

What is Christmas, anyway? I asked that very question at a children's Christmas party the other day. One child shouted out, "That's easy! It's December 25th!" Others called out that Christmas is the day you get lots of presents, while some said it is the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

"The day we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ." That's it, isn't it? When we look past the craziness of the holidays, it all boils down to this: Jesus is the reason for the season.

How do we normally refer to the celebration of a person's birthday? Usually, we don't use awkward language. Generally, the celebration of someone's birthday is called a birthday party.

Christmas is a birthday party.

Birthday parties can conjure up all sorts of feelings. For those who are invited, there are feelings of being accepted and included. There is a sense of excitement as the day draws nearer. However, for others, a birthday party can mean pain and confusion. Those who are not invited feel left out and rejected.

Feelings of rejection are virtually universal. Everybody at some point has felt or been left out of some event. It could be something as innocent as not knowing the person for whom the party was thrown. Children experience this constantly, as a friend or classmate is invited to a party, but they are not. At other times, a person might be excluded intentionally. Either way, each of us has felt rejected, left out, or forgotten.

God knows and understands our feelings. He knows this world can be a tough place, where even the celebrations can be painful for some, and burdensome for many. Perhaps God deliberately chose a tiny and insignificant place on earth for His Son to be born, just to make the point, "I understand."

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me one who is to rule Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. And He shall stand and feed His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God. And they shall live secure, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth; and He shall be the One of peace.

The birthday party of Christmas is different from all other birthday parties. That's because everybody is invited. The rich and the poor. The young and the old. The important as well as the forgotten. God invites everybody to the birthday party of His Son. Even if you don't know Him, come anyway. He'd love you to meet Him.

Harvest Assembly To Praise Christmas On Sunday, Dec. 21st

Harvest Assembly of God will present a 'Christmas Praise Celebration' this Sunday night, December 21st, at 6:00 p.m. at the church.

This family program will consist of reflective scriptures on the birth of Christ, special choral and solo arrangements, congregational singing of traditional Christmas humns, and a participative candlelight celebration of Christmas at the conclusion.

Following the service, all are invited to join for refreshments in the upstairs fellowship hall.

The church is located at 121 Union Street (near the IHOP retaurant) in West Springfield. For more information, you may call the church at 739-1234.

Special Candlelight Christmas Fellowship At Faith Bible Church

On Sunday, December 21st, at 5:00 p.m., Faith Bible Church will be having a special candlelight Christmas fellowship. All are welcome.

This time of family-oriented fellowship will include worshipful music, a devotional that will enhance the true meaning of Christmas, refreshments, and more.

Faith Bible Church is located at 370 Shoemaker Lane in Agawam.

Check our classified

Christmas News From First Baptist Church

On this, the fourth Sunday in Advent (December 21st), Pastor Richard Barnes will speak on "Qualities of God's Servant" at the 9:30 a.m. worship service at First Baptist Church. He will use as his scriptural text selections from the gospel according to St. Luke.

There will be special music presentations by Martha Fletcher and Eileen Drumm, who will offer Christmas solos and duets. Jeanne Webster will lead in the responsive reading; greeters for the morning will include Linda Chicklas and Hope & David Paradysz.

In celebration of the season, the sanctuary has been decorated and the traditional poinsettia tree is in place. Visitors are always welcome to any of our services, held at the corner of Main and Elm Streets.

Following worship, coffee and conversation will be held in Davis Hall, with classes available for all ages until 11:45 a.m.

As usual, nursery care is available.

At 7:00 p.m. this Sunday, December 7th, the fourth in the Advent series (held jointly with the Agawam Congregational Church) will be held. This week's meeting will be at the Congregational Church.

This is the final meeting in the series and will complete the celebration of Christmas around the world by affirming others, accepting ourselves, and appreciating the global body of Christ.

On Christmas Eve, there will be a family service at 7:00 p.m. Special features of the service will include candlelighting and the traditional reading of the scriptural passage from Luke 2 (with pantomiming of the event).

Special choral anthems will be offered, and musical solos will be presented by Carmen Oyola and Josh Thomson. All are invited to attend this meaningful service to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Events of our calendar this week include:

Monday, December 22nd: 7:30 p.m., Word Search Bible Study.

Tuesday, December 23rd: 4:30 p.m., Loaves & Fishes (meals for the homeless); 7:00 p.m., Junior Youth Group.

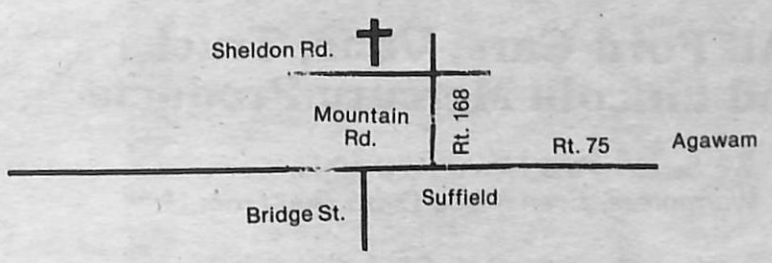
Wednesday, December 24th: 7:00 p.m., Family Christmas Eve Services.

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Reverend Peter Monahan
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Make a visit with our family a part of your family's Christmas Eve tradition.



Join us for worship
7:00 p.m. Family Service
11:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service

The
Feeding Hills Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
21 North Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA
Phone 786-5061
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 A.M.
Rev. Robert C. Donaldson, Pastor

Church News - continued...

Christmas Bazaar At St. John's Church





ST. JOHN'S CHURCH in Agawam Center held its Annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, December 6th. From left - Ellie Placzek, Paula Raiche, Penny DeForge, Gloria Colby, Mickey Adelman, Rose Dean, Lucille Harpin, Jane Schmidt, and Minnie "Pearl" Moren. RELATED PHOTO ON FRONT PAGE.

Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

O Come Let Us Adore Him

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve

5:00 P.M. Children's Service
11:00 P.M. Candlelight Service

Christmas Day

10:00 A.M. Christmas Day Eucharist

ST. DAVID'S
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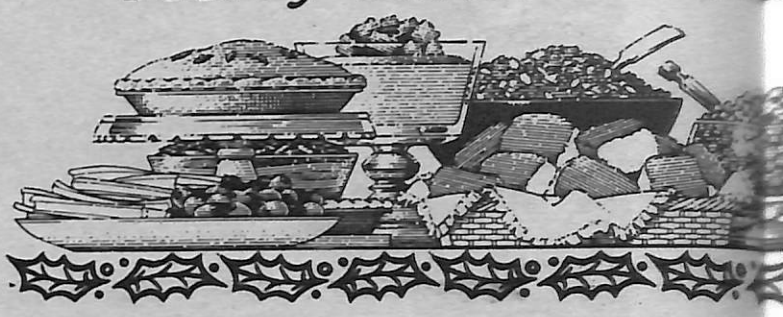
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Alaskan King Crab Legs	$9.95 Lb.

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Friendly Ice Cream (½ Gallon)	2 For $5.00
Hood Golden Egg Nog (½ Gallon)	$2.99
Hood Half & Half (Quarts)	99¢
Hood Chocolate Milk (½ Gallon)	$1.39
Hood 1% Low Fat Milk (Gallon)	$2.19
Sweet Life 1% Low Fat Milk (½ Gallon)	$1.19
Hood Sour Cream (Pints)	$1.19

GROCERIES

Wallingford Gourmet Coffee (1½ Oz. Bag)	$1.59
Dailey's Sweet Mixed Pickles (24 Oz. Jar)	$1.49
Sweet Life Apple Juice (½ Gallon)	$1.19

PRODUCE

Local Potatoes (10 Lb. Bag)	$1.39
Native Green Cabbage	19¢ Lb.
Turnip	25¢ Lb.
Sweet Potatoes	69¢ Lb.
Butternut Squash	39¢ Lb.
Baby Carrots (1 Lb. Bag)	99¢
Bananas	39¢ Lb.
New Florida Tangerines	6 For $1.00
California Navel Oranges (Jumbo Size)	2 For $1.00
New Crop Red & Green Seedless Grapes	$1.69 Lb.

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Dec. 22nd-27th

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Crown Roast Pork	$3.99 Lb.
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Boneless Center Cut Pork Roast	$2.99 Lb.
Waybest Fresh Turkeys (All Sizes)	99¢ Lb.
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Whole	$1.99 Lb.
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Shank Half	$2.49 Lb.
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Blue Seal Holiday Kielbasa	$2.39 Lb.
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5 Lbs. Or More	$1.69 Lb.
10 Lbs. Or More	$1.39 Lb.
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5 Lbs. Or More	$2.49 Lb.
10 Lbs. Or More	$1.99 Lb.
Grade "A" Skinless & Boneless Chicken Breast	$1.99 Lb.

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Hormel Genoa Salami	$2.99 Lb.
Margherita Prosciutto	$5.99 Lb.
Fresh Seafood Salad	$3.99 Lb.

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sday, December 24th) At 5:00 P.M.
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Church News - continued...

Ag. Congregational Lists Upcoming Christmas Schedule

The Junior and Senior High Youth from Agawam Congregational Church will be Christmas caroling on Sunday, December 21st, at Heritage Hall Nursing Home (North Building) and Heritage Woods.

The youth will be meeting at the church parking lot at 6:00 p.m. to carpool over to Heritage.

Following the caroling, there will be a Christmas party back at the church.

This Sunday, December 21st, is the Fourth Sunday in Advent. The Candle of Peace will be lit by the Bertagnolli family (Stephanie, David, Alexandra, and Clara) before the Call to Worship at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main Street, Agawam.

The Adult and Children's Choirs will be presenting their Christmas music program, "The Singing Nativity," during Worship Service under the direction of Ellen Cogen, Minister of Music. The fourth grade Church School class will be greeters and ushers at this service.

The poinsettia tree, in honor of and in memory of loved ones (arranged by the Flower Committee), will be on display for the Sunday service. Please join us for this special program and Worship Service.

Advent Series: "How Do You Prepare Your Home & Heart For Christmas?" Experience the sights, sounds, stories, and tastes from around the globe as we concentrate on: affirming others, accepting ourselves, and appreciating the global Body of Christ.

Guest speakers from four different lands and cultures will be joining us. The final session is Sunday, December 21st, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Agawam Congregational Church. The service project for this series will be caroling at Quail Run, gathering at 6:15 p.m. prior to the Sunday meeting.

Christmas Eve Services will be at 5:00 p.m., the Family Christmas Pageant; 7:00 p.m., Carols & Candles; and 11:00 p.m., the Traditional Candlelight Service. Join us for one, two, or all three to bring the Christ Child into your heart.

The Family Christmas Pageant dress rehearsal will be on Saturday, December 20th, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

The Catering Committee is planning a Roast Pork Dinner on Saturday, January 10th, at 5:30 p.m. Mark your calendars today!

The Open Pantry item for this Sunday is canned fruit.

Items collected will be donated to the Agawam/West Springfield Open Pantry.

For more information concerning programs, events, or dinners, call the church office at 786-7111.

St. David's Church Has Christmas Week Services

ST DAVID'S SERVICES - A BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Be sure to invite your friends to either of our Christmas Eve Services, noting that each has its specific focus. The **5:00 p.m. Service** is specifically designed for children, features the Junior Choir and a brief message for children, is light and joyous, and lasts about an hour-and-a-quarter.

Child care for small children is available. The **11:00 p.m. Service** has adults in mind, and has no childcare, but mature children are welcome to this "traditional" candlelight service, which features the Senior Choir and an adult message, is deep and reverent, and lasts about an hour-and-a-half.

The **10:00 a.m. Service Christmas Day** is a simple Eucharist with hymns which lasts an hour, serving as a reminder that opening presents is set against the backdrop of our greatest gift, Jesus Christ. Use these special services as special opportunities to witness to the love of our Lord.

WEEKEND SERVICES AFTER CHRISTMAS

Lessons and Carols will be read and sung at all services the first weekend after Christmas, December 28th-29th, following the pattern of the famous "Lessons and Carols" service held each Christmas Eve at King's College, Cambridge, England.

Join us and invite your friends to take part in this wonderful way of remembering the real meaning of Christmas found in the prophecies of Christ found in the Scripture, and in those wonderful hymns which proclaim Him.

News And Notes From F.H. Congregational

You are welcome to join with us at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church, which is located at 21 N. Westfield Street in Feeding Hills. Worship hour begins at 10:00 a.m. and will include "A Call to the Manger," a special presentation by the Sunday School children.

The lectionary readings for December 21st, the third Sunday of Advent, are Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:47-55, or Psalm 80:1-7, Hebrews 10:5-10, and Luke 1:39-45 (46-55 optional).

Our Lector this week is Diane Fiejdasz. Children should attend worship with their parents; nursery care will be provided for the very young.

The Ladies Benevolent Society made 30 dozen cookies last Friday for the Open Pantry Christmas Party. Thanks to all the ladies who helped.

A big thank you is extended also to Naida King, who made six crib quilts, 24 hats, and a pair of mittens for the Pantry!

Young people from the church will gather this Saturday, December 20th, at 9:30 a.m. to deliver holiday baskets to elderly friends and shut-ins. Pizza will be enjoyed for lunch.

On Sunday, December 21st, members and friends of FHCC are invited to a potluck luncheon following morning worship hour. There will be lots of good food, singing, and holiday merriment for everyone to enjoy!

There will be two services held at this church on Christmas Eve. The first, family-style, will begin at 7:00 p.m. A more traditional candlelight service will begin at 11:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to our house for the holiday.

On the calendar:

Saturday, December 20th: 9:30 a.m., Sunday School delivers gifts. Pizza luncheon served.

Sunday, December 21st: 10:00 a.m., Children's Presentation during worship; Potluck Christmas Sing-along Party after worship.

Monday, December 22nd: 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., Girl Scouts; 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Cub Scouts.

Tuesday, December 23rd: 7:00 p.m., A.A.

Wednesday, December 24th: 7:00 p.m., Family Service; 11:00 p.m., Candlelight Service.

Thursday, December 25th: *Happy Christmas to all!*

Christmas Musical By The Crossroads Dance Ministry

All are invited to "The Gift Goes On," a Christmas musical presented by Crossroads Dance Ministry. This dramatic presentation will use dance and visual art to portray the meaning of Christmas and its true source of joy — the gift of Jesus to the world.

Come and bring your family and friends to enjoy this event. Each family will receive a small gift in celebration of Christmas. Refreshments will be provided after the program.

This musical will be presented at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 21st, at Crossroads Christian Fellowship, located in the Crossroads Plaza (28 Southwick Street) in Feeding Hills at the intersection of Routes 57 and 187, behind the Dunkin' Donuts. For more information, call (413) 821-0937.

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Christmas Week Celebrations At Ag. United Methodist

Once again, the Christmas season now at hand brings us to a closer realization of the presence of God among us. If, during the year, we lived with only a faint awareness of this, it is hardly likely that anyone can overlook or bypass the call to celebrate with Christians everywhere the joy of a Savior's birth.

The Agawam United Methodist Church extends an invitation to any who would join us at our celebrative worship on Sunday, December 21st. Come hear from our children as understood, by them, they express the message of "peace" and "good will" to all.

Join us, too, for the traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service at 7:00 p.m., which will be higlighted by the singing of carols.

Let us go beyond the emphasis of today's Christmas commercialism (which aims at the promotion of high sales mainly for the benefit of the business world) and reach out with the gift of God's love for the world so that, even when we find ourselves patronizing the call to spend large sums in the purchase of gifts, we may do so for the joy of making others happy.

Fourth Week Of Advent At Valley Community Church

Members and friends of Valley Community Church warmly invite everyone to experience the joy of the birth of Jesus Christ during their worship service during this Fourth week of Advent.

The Sunday Worship Service begins at 9:30 a.m. Come and let your hearts feel the joy of how the birth of our Savior affects your lives. Pastor Steve Dennehy will lead the service and share God's Word of this season with all.

The children will leave the Sanctuary for Children's Church at 10:00 a.m. Their hearts will be filled with wonderful expectation as they anticipate the **Christmas Festival** which begins at 10:30 a.m. in Dunn Hall. All are welcome to join in this wonderful day of celebration!

The Christmas Eve Service will be held at 11:00 p.m. on December 24th. This is a very somber and thought-provoking service as we consider how the birth of Jesus Christ touched the lives of those before us and of those yet to come.

We invite all those in our community, especially those who may not have a church home, to come and share this evening of worship with us. We are sure you will awake on Christmas morning feeling the power of God's love in your heart.

Valley Community Church is an interdenominational church and a member of the International Council of Community Churches. The congregation is made up of people from various religious backgrounds, but all who have confessed Jesus Christ as their Savior. The church is located "high on the hilltop" at 152 South Westfield St.

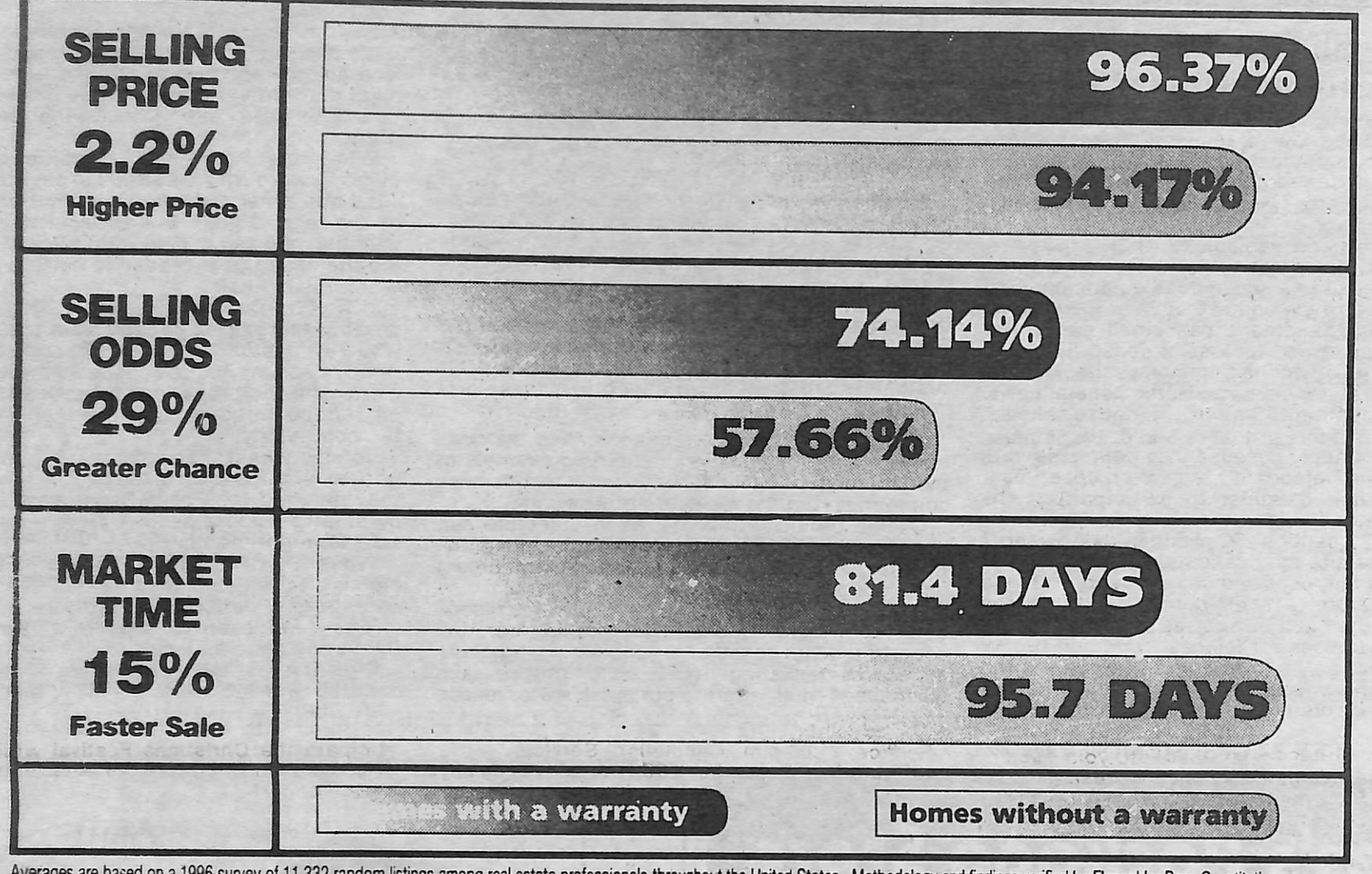
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Spotlight On Business

Legal Memo

by
Alan J. Ferrigno, Esq.
546 Springfield St., F.H.
(413) 786-9454



Slip And Fall: Recreational Use Of Land

Where parents sued a town for negligence after (1) they paid the town a registration fee for their daughter to participate in a youth basketball league and (2) the mother was injured while watching her daughter play a game on town property, an order in favor of the town was issued by the Superior Court and was upheld.

The Plaintiffs allege that the mother was injured as a result of a slip and fall on an unnatural accumulation of ice on the town's property while attending her daughter's basketball game. Her husband's claim was for loss of consortium.

The town relied on the Commonwealth's recreational use statute, Massachusetts General Laws, chapter 21, section 17C as an affirmative defense. The Plaintiffs contend that M.G.L. c. 21, Section 17C does not apply because they paid a registration fee to the Defendant's recreation department to enable their daughter to participate in the youth basketball league.

M.G.L. c. 21, section 17C provides, "An owner of land who permits the public to use such land for recreational purposes without imposing a charge or fee therefore ... shall not be liable to any member of the public who uses said land for the aforesaid purposes for injuries to person or property sustained by him while on said land ... The liability of an owner who imposes a charge or fee for the use of his land by the public for recrea-

SEE LEGAL MEMO - Page 29...

Scott's Citgo, B & D Petro., Help Outfit AFD Rescue Boat

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

Equipment for the Fire Department's dive rescue team has been purchased with money raised by a local gas station's carwash operation.

Last week, representatives of Scott's Citgo on Suffield Street and parent company B & D Petroleum Sales of Springfield, presented Fire Chief David Pisano with a check for $1,500 to help outfit the department's new fire rescue boat.

Michael McCarthy, owner of B & D Petroleum, said he considers promotions like the carwash to benefit the Fire Department as part of his company's commitment to being a good corporate citizen.

"We had already done something for the Police Department and it came to our attention that the Fire Department was looking to raise some funds for some rescue gear," McCarthy said. "Our customers are great about supporting these promotions."

Mayor Christopher C. Johnson called the company's generous donation "a shining example of the growing partnership between the business community and the residents of Agawam."

Over a period of months, each complete carwash package sold at Scott's Citgo netted the Fire Department $1 for the rescue equipment fund, according to Pisano.

After getting the funding for a new fire rescue boat from Town Council earlier this year, the department put together a fundraising brochure aimed at enlisting local civic groups and businesses in an effort to purchase water rescue equipment.

Urgently Needed Equipment

Among the most urgently needed equipment was an ice rescue sled and the cold water wetsuits that firefighters would need for rescuing victims who have fallen through the ice into frigid waters.

When the Agawam Lions Club immediately came forward with the $3,000 to pay for the rescue sled, and other civic groups contributed the cost of the related gear, B & D decided to go ahead with the carwash to help with the cost of purchasing the scuba gear needed to outfit a dive rescue team, Pisano said.

"The Fire Department always seems to have a great outpouring of support from the community when we ask for their help," Pisano said. "It confirms my belief that the people know a fire department with the proper equipment can do a better job. I hope it shows that we're highly regarded in the community."

Johnson said, "The company has been very generous to the town in the past. A few years ago, they donated the Police Department's DARE car by setting aside a penny for every gallon of gas sold for eight months."

While his company is involved in several fundraising activities in the communities where they operate gas stations, McCarthy said their major efforts have been in support of the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Over the last five years, B & D Petroleum has donated over $25,000 to the MDA, McCarthy said.

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BEER:
Coors Extra Gold (30 Pk.) - $10.99 Plus Dep.
Busch Beer (30 Pk.) - $11.99 Plus Dep.
Red Dog & Icehouse (30 Pk.) - $12.99 Plus Dep.
Molson Ice (Bottles) - $14.99 Plus Dep.

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Spotlight On Business - continued...

Ag. Fire Dept. Receives $$$ For Rescue Equipment



SCOTT'S CITGO on Suffield Street and B & D Petroleum of Springfield joined forces to donate $1,500 to the Agawam Fire Dept. to help outfit its rescue boat. From left - Jose Vazquez, Lt. Gene Mutti, Brian Keefe, Deputy Chief Steve Martin, Don Scott, Jr. (owner of Citgo Station), Mike McArthy (owner of B & D Petroleum), Chief Dave Pisano, and Mayor Christopher Johnson. RELATED STORY ON PREVIOUS PAGE. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

LEGAL MEMO - from Page 28...

tional purposes shall not be limited by any provision of this section."

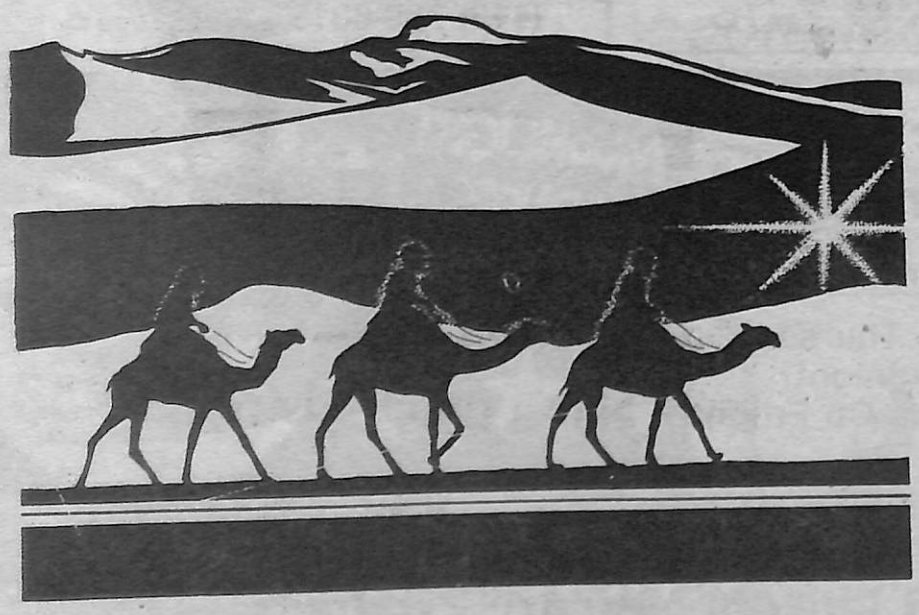
The Court said the town charged no admission fee to the Plaintiffs. The registration fee that the Plaintiffs paid for their daughter was used to reimburse the league for its incidental expenses.

Even if the Plaintiffs did not register their daughter to play on the team, the Plaintiffs, along with any other member of the public, could have gone to the school and observed the basketball game without paying a fee.

The Plaintiffs' action falls within the scope of M.G.L. c. 21, section 17C and they cannot recover.

Attorney Alan L. Ferrigno maintains an office at 546 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Massachusetts.

Wishing You All A Happy And Safe Holiday Season



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Norman Townsend

Spotlight On Business - continued...



DONALD R. CHASE (left), president of Westbank, presents a stock certificate to Gerard E. Drapeau, vice-president, who has served the bank for 35 years. Gerard is one of the bank's nine original employees.

Awards Program For Westbank Employees Approved By Directors

In recognition of the employees' hard work, dedication, and loyalty, Westbank's Board of Directors has approved an Employee Anniversary Award Program, according to Donald R. Chase, President and Chief Executive Officer of Westbank Corporation.

This program will recognize each employee when they reach certain milestones in their career at Westbank, Chase said. All employees who worked a minimum of five years were immediately rewarded this year. The awards ranged from a Gift Certificate to Holyoke Mall to $3,000 in Westbank Corporation Stock.

Westbank is the only independent locally owned Commercial Bank in Western Massachusetts that was founded in 1962 by a group of local businessmen who felt that there was a need for a hometown Commercial Bank. During the past 35 years the bank has prospered primarily to the dedication, hard work, and loyalty of the employees, many of whom have been with the bank for over 20 years.

Woronoco Savings Collects Donations For New Beginnings

Southwick: Woronoco Savings Bank is collecting doantions for New Beginnings battered women's shelter, a program of the YWCA of Western Massachusetts.

New Beginnings, located in Westfield, provides services to battered women and their children, including emergency shelter, a 24-hour hotline, support groups, counseling, and medical and legal advocacy.

Cynthia Houle, manager of Woronoco Savings Bank's Gristmill Plaza branch, said she "wanted to get the branch involved in the community and reach out to people."

"We touch a lot of people at the bank and these people are wonderful," said Houle.

In addition to the Gristmill Plaza branch, branch manager Terry Fox of the Woronoco Savings Bank at 185 College Highway (Big Y/Ames Plaza) and Darilynn Nardi at the 359 Springfield St. branch in Feeding Hills, will also accept donations for New Beginnings. Houle said other branches may soon join them.

Donations have already been dropped off. Dr. Ronald Pahl of Agawam Dental Care kicked off the collection with a donation of toothpaste and dental floss. Other local businesses have made donations as well as individuals. Houle is bringing the donations to New Beginnings as they are received.

"It's wonderful that the community is giving so generously to women and children in need. The YWCA provides much needed services that could not be offered if it weren't for the compassion of people in the community who give so much. We appreciate everyone's efforts," said YWCA of Western Massachusetts Executive Director Mary Reardon Johnson.

New Beginnings Director Linda B. Koss has provided the following list of needed items. Anyone wishing to donate *any of the following* may do so at any of the above mentioned Woronoco Savings Bank branches during business hours:

Tylenol, Children's Tylenol, Band-Aids, Calamine Lotion, rubbing alcohol, Epson Salts, oatmeal bath (for chicken pox), bug spray, deodorant, shampoo/conditioner, hair brushes/combs, peroxide, suntan lotion, lice kits, cough drops, Springfield/Holyoke bus passes/tokens, Polaroid One Step film.



CARLENE ROBERTS

Carlene Roberts Joins Wegiel Travel

Wegiel Travel is proud to announce the addition to their staff of Carlene Roberts of Agawam.

Roberts comes to Wegiel with a 17-year travel career which includes 15 years as manager of the AAA Travel Agency (Auto Club of Pioneer Valley) and two years as an agent of Carroll Travel of Springfield.

Her extensive travel experience includes more than 10 Caribbean cruises, and she has visited many of the most popular vacation destinations.

She stated, "I am pleased to be at Wegiel Travel. They have been serving travelers for over 40 years and are committed to quality service. I am also able to better serve my Agawam customers at our location at 1102 Riverdale Street, West Springfield (across from the Riverdale Shops).

Roberts continued, "This location is very convenient to Agawam. I look forward to seeing my old customers and meeting new ones."

Wegiel Travel is a full-service travel agency specializing in cruises, groups, and tours. Roberts can be contacted at 734-8223, ext. 100.

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Arts

Fifth Annual MA International Festival Of The Arts

A Popular Cultural And Tourist Destination In The Connecticut River Valley

State Representative Daniel F. Keenan is pleased to announce that the fifth annual Massachusetts International Festival of the Arts (MIFA) will take place April 17 through May 3, 1998. The events will be presented in various venues throughout the Connecticut River Valley.

The Massachusetts International Festival of the Arts is an annual springtime festival which brings world-class opera, theater, concerts, and film to the Connecticut River Valley region of Massachusetts.

The Festival also highlights the outstanding work of Valley artists and arts organizations during festival time, and specializes in bringing attractions to the Valley that you would be more likely to encounter in a small European festival than in even a major American cultural center like Boston.

The Connecticut River Valley's geographic beauty and cultural history make it an ideal tourist destination. The Valley has a population of 750,000 and is within easy traveling distance of the Boston metropolitan area (1½ hours); the Hartford, Connecticut metropolitan area (45 minutes); the Albany and Worcester areas (1½ hours and 45 minutes, respectively); and the New York metropolitan area (three hours).

Market research shows that these areas constitute another 30.5 million inhabitants. The populations of all the aforementioned Northeastern communities are among the most interested in culture in America and represent the highest 10 percent in educational background and economic income.

Anyone interested in attaining more information on the Massachusetts International Festival of the Arts may contact Rep. Keenan's office at (413) 786-4545, or the Massachusetts International Festival of the Arts at 1-800-224-MIFA.

Agawam Native Helps With Publication Of Book On Painting

Eas'I Publications proudly announces the release of *A Gathering of Artists, Volume I,* the first annual release of an Eas'I decorative painting book, with all profits of the book going to a charity.

This book, with a Christmas ornament theme, is a collaboration of Eas'I Publications, who is donating all of its fees, and 30 Eas'I authors, including Jane (Bitgood) Barrientos, an Agawam native, and a decorative art instructor in West Springfield, who have donated their work, along with special contributions by the production vendors.

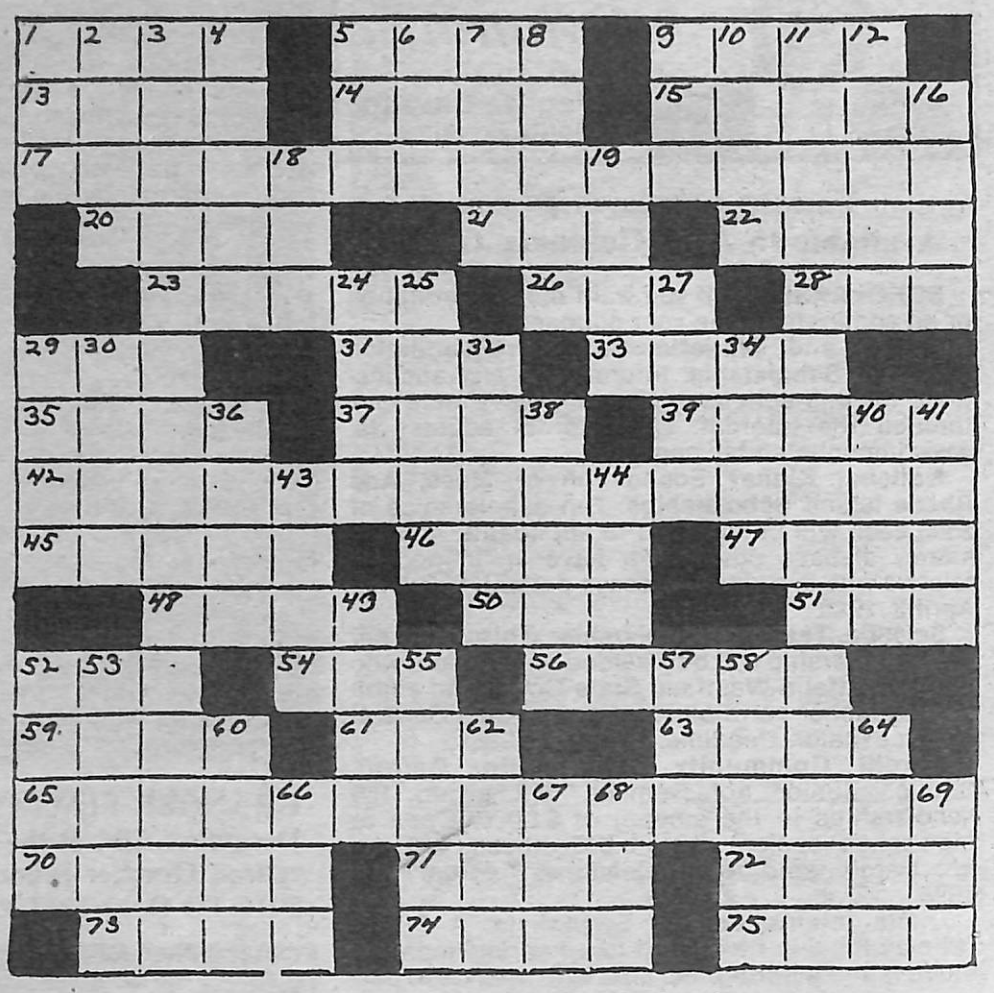
This year's profits will be donated to **Our Little Haven**, in St. Louis, Missouri. This worthwhile charity provides care for children from birth to age five that are infected or affected by the HIV virus, or drug related problems.

Our Little Haven has received national recognition for its work, and has been chosen by the National Junior Chamber of Commerce as a prototype for similar projects in other cities.

MEET THE MASTER - by Dick Mastroianni

ACROSS
1 Indy 500
5 Mr. Dithers' wife
9 Wading bird
13 Rowboat propellants
14 Seaport of Algeria
15 Castle protectors
17 Fun with words?
20 Son of Isaac
21 Poetical before
22 Prayer call
23 Council
26 B.P.O.E. member
28 D-Day landers
29 "— a plea"
31 Before (prefix)
33 Record
35 Words of woe
37 Long time periods
39 "If I —— do it..."
42 Children's classic
45 Pertaining to a joint
46 Fuel turf
47 Poet Pound
48 Long-running Broadway hit
50 Antique auto
51 Buddhist sect
52 Esquire (abbr.)
54 "— Alamos"
56 Picture transfer
59 Like most R & R
61 Distress signal
63 Idea (prefix)
65 Breakfast favorite
70 Peace march city
71 Make over
72 "Little —" (comic strip)
73 Come to a halt
74 Spore
75 Ogler

DOWN
1 Arabian Nights' bird
2 Rhine river feeder
3 Bed covering for a crab?
4 Lamb specialty
5 Farm animal
6 Spanish gold
7 Like rain in the Sahara
8 Pianist Watts
9 Mustangs' school
10 Seep
11 Fast-fingered quarterback?
12 Book with maps
16 Mailed out
18 Earth's star
19 Throw stones at
24 Oil cartel
25 Sag
27 Actress Madeline
29 Toy gun ammo
30 Olive genus
32 Go in
34 Canape spread
36 Evening in Roma
38 Mount
40 Spare or flat
41 "Good Earth" heroine
43 Muddy up
44 Sioux
49 "— Hashana"
52 Pixies
53 Ulcers
55 Floats with the wind
57 "El —" (Spanish hero)
58 Astair
60 Car salesman's tool
62 Peter Pan pirate
64 Leer at
66 Dip lightly
67 Summer fruit drink
68 Doze off
69 California's "Big —"



Last Week's Solution...

	F	R	I		G	A	M	E	D		A	R	T	S		
P	L	A	N		I	R	A	N	I		R	E	A	S	O	N
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EARLY DEADLINE: For our Annual Christmas edition, Sunday, Dec. 21st, at noontime. We will be in all weekend.

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Holiday Hours

For your banking convenience all offices of Westfield Savings Bank will remain open until:
3:00 PM,
Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve and Wednesday, December 31, New Year's Eve.
All offices will be closed Thursday, December 25, Christmas Day and Thursday, January 1, New Year's Day.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
Westfield Bank
A New Age In Banking

Education



Guidance Column...

by Paul C. Cavallo
Deputy Principal

Various Scholarships Are Available In AHS Guidance Offices

SCHOLARSHIPS: If you want more information or an application, see your counselor.

James and Marietta Gargiulo Foundation Memorial Scholarship: Information and applications for this scholarship are now available *only* through the Internet. The Internet address is: **www.jmgscholarship.com**

National Kidney Foundation of Mass. And Rhode Island Scholarships: Ten scholarships of $500 each will be awarded to applicants who are kidney disease patients or have an immediate relative who is a kidney disease patient. Deadline: April 3, 1998.

Science Teacher Scholarship: This $500 per year scholarship will be awarded to a student who plans to attend Westfield State College to enroll in the teacher certification program as a General Science major. Deadline: March 1, 1998.

Cargill Community Scholarship: Cargill, through Junior Achievement, will award 150 scholarships in the amount of $1,000. Open to high school seniors who are U.S. citizens who are not Cargill employees. Deadline: February 16, 1998.

Quota International of Springfield: A $1,000 scholarship will be offered to a hearing-impaired student in the Springfield area who intends to pursue a field of study pertaining to hearing-impaired people. Deadline: February 1, 1998.

Humane Society of the United States Shaw-Worth Scholarship: Each year, this scholarship is awarded to a New England high school senior who has made a meaningful contribution to animal protection over a significant period of time. One-thousand dollars will be awarded. Deadline: March 15, 1998.

Hartwick College Scholarships: Open to outstanding students who enroll at Hartwick.

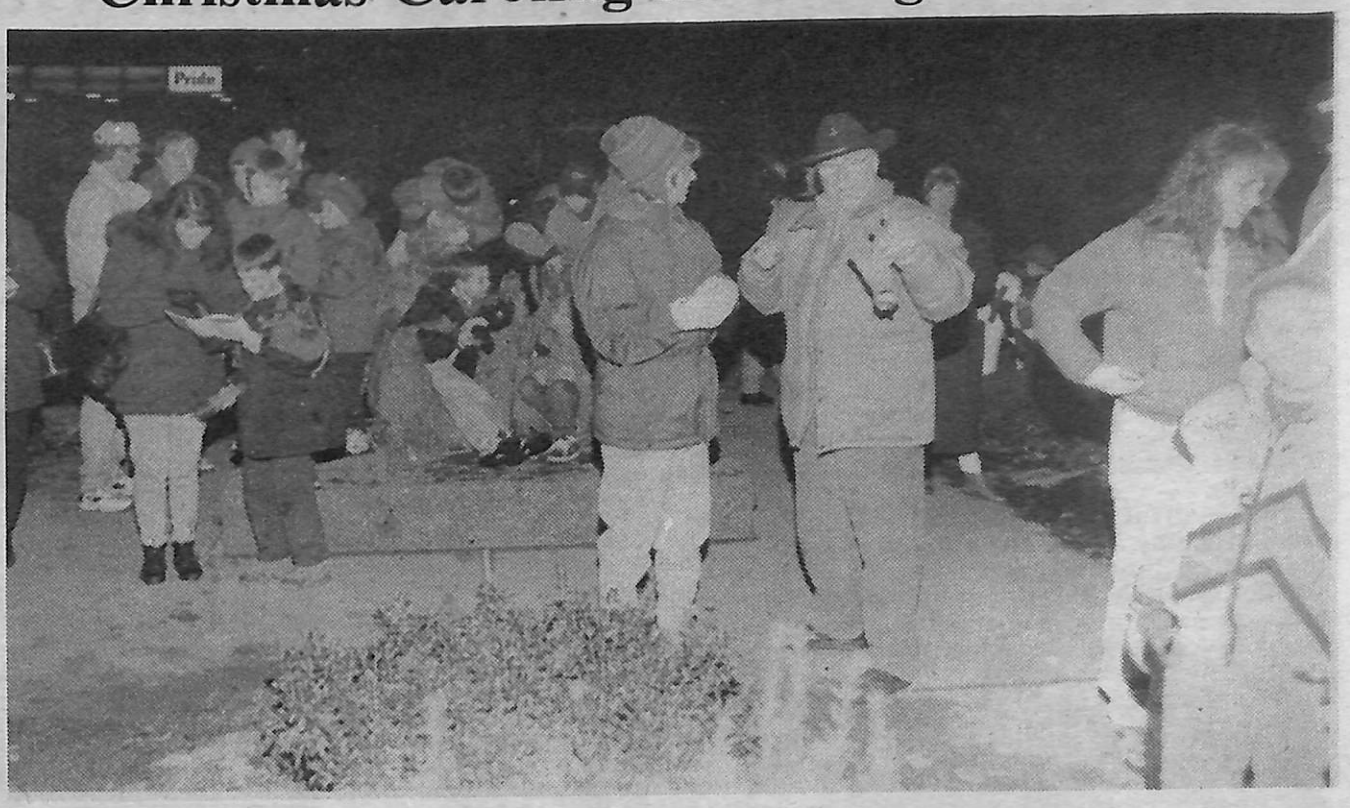
Susquehanna University Scholarships: Open to qualified students who plan to attend Susquehanna.

Boston Guild for the Hard of Hearing Scholarship: One-thousand dollars will be awarded to a senior student with a hearing loss who will have completed his/her high school education by June 30, 1998 and will be pursuing a two- or four-year college education commencing September 1998. This scholarship will be based on merit and need. Deadline: March 13, 1998.

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES: Congratulations!
Erich Flood: Western New England College.
Christopher Carson: Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

SEE AHS GUIDANCE - Page 33...

Christmas Caroling At Granger School



GRANGER ELMENTARY SCHOOL held its Annual Community Sing-Along on Friday, December 5th, at the Anne Sullivan Memorial in Feeding Hills Center. IN TOP PHOTO, retired Granger School Principal Jim Loomis was one of those who attended. RELATED PHOTO ON NEXT PAGE. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



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Christmas Caroling In Feeding Hills Center



MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY gathered with staff, students, and families from Granger School for a community sing-along on Friday evening, December 5th at the Anne Sullivan Memorial in Feeding Hills Center. RELATED PHOTOS ON PREVIOUS PAGE. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Agawam Schools' Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, December 22nd: Steamed frankfort in roll, oven-baked beans, seasoned green beans, chilled fruit cup, milk.

Tuesday, December 23rd: Hamburg in roll, steamed buttered rice, niblet corn, chilled diced pears or raspberry sherbet, milk.

Wednesday, December 24th through Friday, January 2nd: Christmas vacation (schools closed).

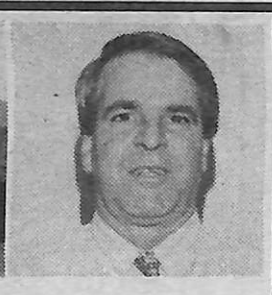
AHS GUIDANCE - from Page 32...

Jon Solecki: Wentworth Institute of Technology.
Brad Tilden: Amherst College.
Andrea Davis: Lyndon State College.
Sheree Cardin: Franklin Pierce College.
Daryl St. Laurent: Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
Gina Markowski: Union College.

best local news...

EARLY DEADLINE: For our Annual Christmas edition, Sunday, Dec. 21st, at noontime.



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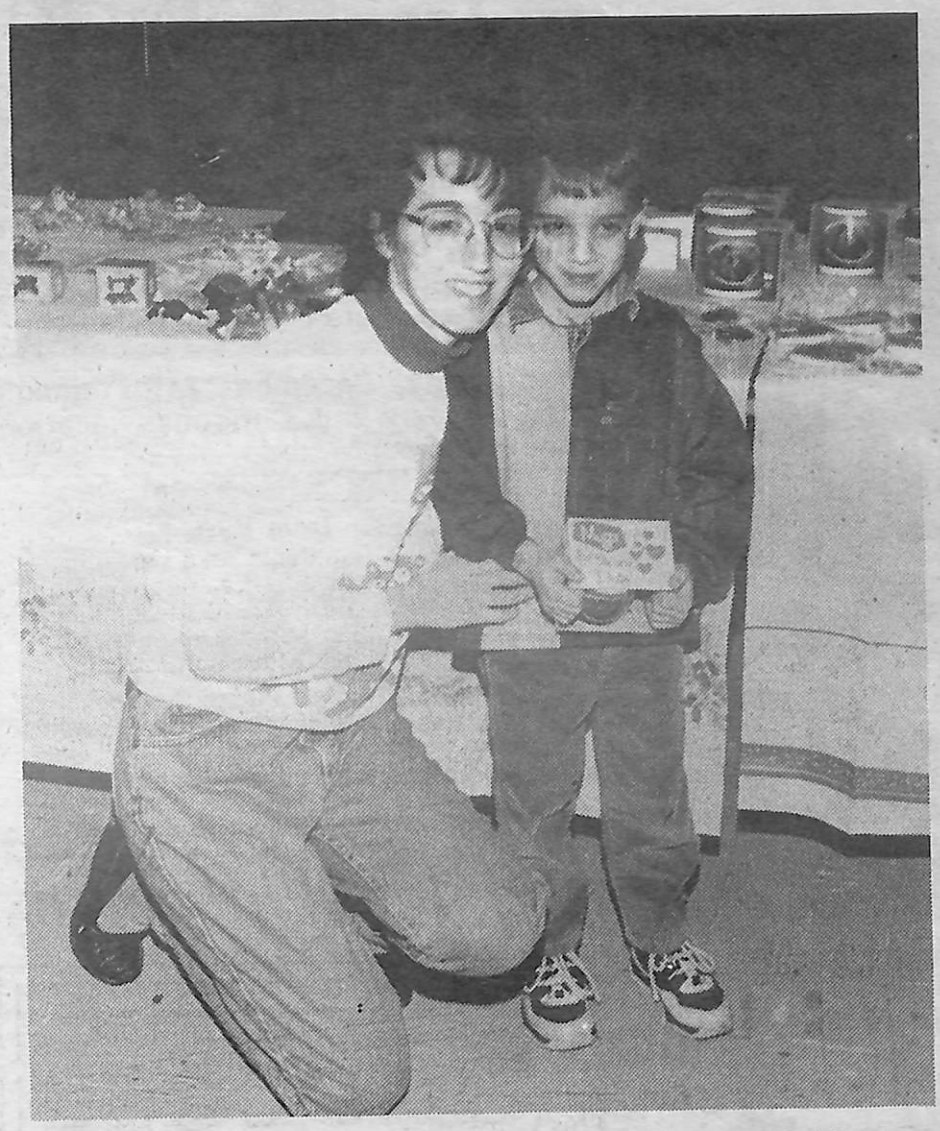
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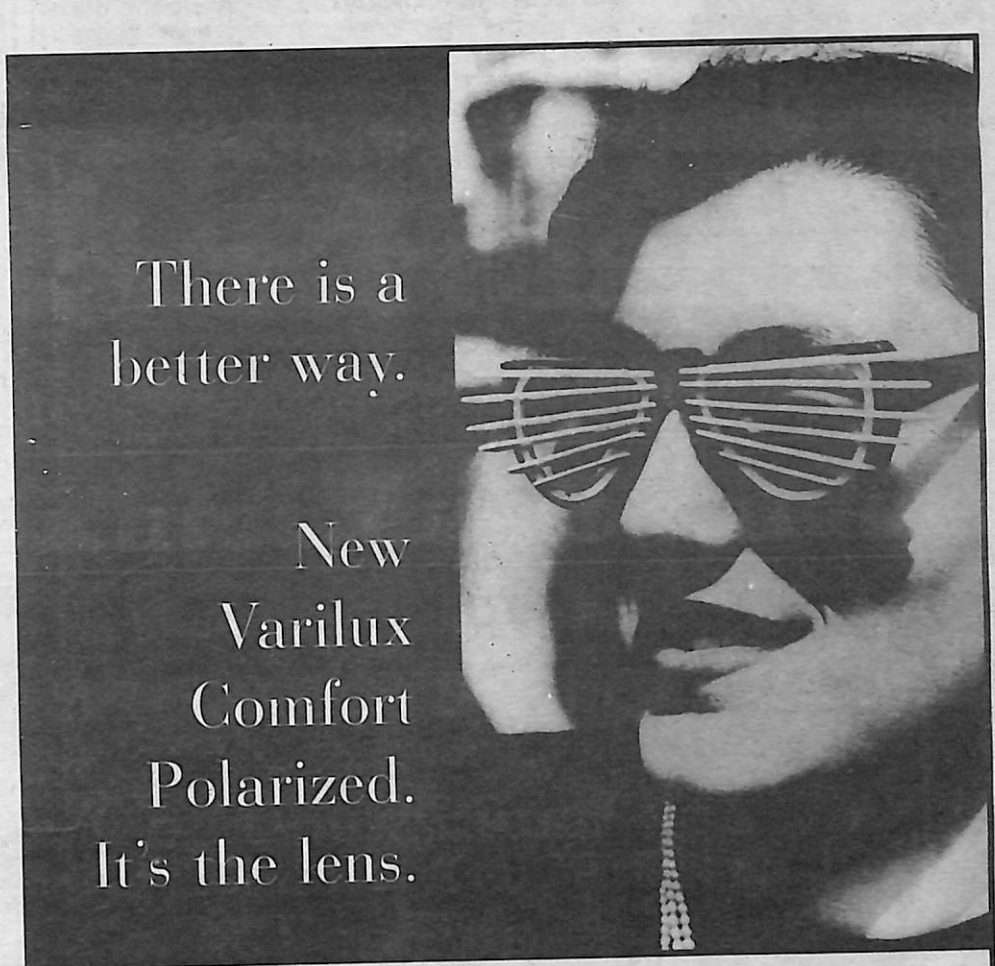
Christmas Store At Clark School



CARLA CHASE assists her son, Brandon Chase, with his purchase of Christmas presents at the Christmas Store at James Clark School on Wednesday, December 10th. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



STUDENTS AT CLARK SCHOOL are all smiles after they did their Christmas shopping at the Christmas Store sponsored by the school's PTO. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



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Holiday Baskets Collected At AHS



THE SEVENTH PERIOD Health class at Agawam High School taught by William Dillon recently conducted a food drive to help with holiday baskets for the needy. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Agawam Students On Fall Honor Roll At Holyoke Catholic

Holyoke Catholic High School Principal William Fitzgerald is pleased to announce that over 200 members of the student body have been named to the first quarter honor roll.

Local students named to the honor roll are **Kathryne Smith** (grade 12) and **Matthew Szoka** (grade 9).

Catholic prides itself on the accomplishments of its students. "We have a strong academic program which challenges every student and affords every indivdidual the opportunity to work to his/her greatest potential," said Bill Fitzgerald.

Many of these students excel not only in academics, but are also exceptional athletes participating in several of Catholic's sports programs. All of the students take part in extra and co-curricular activities at the school while a large number of them are involved in community service projects in their hometowns and some even hold part-time jobs after school and on the weekends as well.

Students at Holyoke Catholic are very involved at home, at school, at church, and in the community. They truly enjoy being a part of it all.

NO one covers all the local news like us, each week

Meeting To Discuss Sixth Grade Trip To Washington DC

There will be a meeting for the parents of any sixth grader planning on going to New York, Washington DC, and Philadelphia during the April school vacation on **Monday, December 22nd, at 7:00 p.m. in the Agawam Middle School cafeteria.**

We are aware that many people were not able to attend the first meeting, so feel free to come to this one with any questions or concerns you may have so they may be addressed.

At the first meeting, it was decided that the students would sell candy to offset the cost of their trip. The candy will be available for pick-up at this meeting.

Deposits for the trip are also coming due. They must be in by January 3, 1998 so we can confirm our reservations. The deposits should be made by check and written out to the *Washington Trip Acct.* and sent to Rachel Thomas, 43 Janelle Drive, Agawam, MA 01001-2735.

Brad Tilden Accepted At Amherst College For Fall Of 1998

Brad Tilden, a senior at Agawam High School, has been accepted at Amherst College through Early Decision Admission.

Amherst College, founded in 1821, is a non-sectarian insititution for "the education of indigent young men of piety and talents for the *Christian ministry.*"

Amherst today is an independent liberal arts college for men and women. Its approximately 1,570 students come from most of the 50 states and many foreign countries. It is located near the center of the Town of Amherst, adjacent to the town common.

Brad will begin his studies in the fall of 1998 where he will major in Music and Biology. He is the son of Grace & Peter Tilden of Agawam.

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Agawam Adult Education For The Winter 1998 Semester

Registration for the Winter Semester of the Agawam Adult Education Program will be held on Monday and Wednesday evening, January 5th and 7th, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., in the Agawam High School Guidance Office.

Registration will also be held during the first week of classes on Monday, January 12th, and Wednesday, January 14th, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the AHS Guidance Office.

Winter classes will begin on Monday, January 12th, and run for 10 weeks. Classes will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

The class schedule goes as follows:

Mondays — January 12th, 26th; February 2nd, 9th, 23rd; March 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th.

Tuesdays — January 13th, 20th, 27th; February 3rd, 10th, 24th; March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th.

Wednesdays — January 14th, 21st, 28th; February 4th, 11th, 25th; March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th.

There will be no classes on Monday, January 19th (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day) and Monday, Feburary 16th, Tuesday, February 17th, and Wednesday, February 18th (mid-winter vacation).

NOTIFICATION OF SCHOOL CLOSING: If Agawam schools are closed because of inclement weather, evening school is also canceled. Local radio stations will also announce any cancellations. Make-up days for inclement weather will be scheduled during the term.

The tuition charge is $70 per course and is payable at the time of registration. No refunds will be given after the second class meeting.

Tuition will be refunded if there is an insufficient number of students registered for a course(s). The administration reserves the right to cancel course(s) for lack of registration.

Those persons interested in working toward a high school diploma should bring with them a transcript of any course work completed since ninth grade.

The following is a list of courses and the nights they are being offered this semester:

MONDAY CLASSES: ***English 11, English 12, General Science, World History, Algebra II, Geometry, EXCEL, Algebra I.***

TUESDAY CLASS: ***Microsoft WORD II.***

WEDNESDAY CLASSES: ***English 9, English 10, U.S. History, Chemistry, General Math, Computer Concepts, Microsoft WORD I, Oil Painting.***

For further information, contact Paul C. Cavallo, Director of the Agawam Adult Education Program, at 821-0522 or 821-0527.

Jack Devine needs at least 48 hours notice to cover your event. Call 789-0053

National Park At Clark



VALERIE LIPTAK'S FOURTH GRADE class at James Clark School were in awe of Kelly Ann Gorman's presentation of the importance of fires in our national parks and the recovery process. Ms. Gorman is a forestry technician who travels from park to park starting fires to reintroduce fires into the ecosystem and to prevent uncontrolled wild fires. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Food Drive



PHELPS SCHOOL CHILDREN held their annual non-perishable food drive earlier this month. All items collected were donated to the Open Pantry to be distributed in time for Christmas. The children were very generous and did a wonderful job of giving. From left - Ryan Wheeler, Stephen Teixeira, and Andrea Braccialarghe. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

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Sports

AHS Winter Sports Preview

Brownie Wrestlers Reloading For Return To Top

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

"In our program, we don't rebuild. We reload," Agawam High wrestling Coach Phil Tomkiel noted the other day when previewing his team's chances for the 1997-98 season.

He was referring specifically to the fact that for the first time in 10 years, his Brownies were going in[illegible] season without being the defending Western Mass. Division I champions. That honor went to Agawam's long-time rival, West Springfield.

"Potentially, we are a better team than last year. And the other teams in the A Division are not as strong as they could be," he said as he watched close to 60 kids work out in pre-season drills.

If anyone knows talent, potential, and expectations, it is Tomkiel. In his 23 seasons as the Brownie mentor, he has produced 10 Western Mass. championship teams and two State championship squads.

Individually, he has coached 11 State champs and 60 Western Mass. title-holders. He was also named as the National Coaches Association Wrestling "Coach of the Year" last season.

His standouts in the various weight classes look like this. Sophomore **Dave Moore** has shown a lot of promise in the 103's. "Kids have challenged him. But so far, he's proved the best we have there," Tomkiel noted.

Once, the 112-shot was dominated by senior **Kevin McKay.** Now, another senior, **Kevin Suffriti,** will hold down the spot. Suffriti had been wrestling at 119 most of last year.

McKay, the team's captain and a truly outstanding wrestler, will be in the 119's. He was the 112-pound Western Mass. champ last year. The year before that, he took the Western Mass. crown in the 103's. McKay has his sights firmly set on another title in his third weight class.

Brian Chechile will be the 125-pounder. His brother, Chris (who was All-Western Mass. at that weight in 1996 as a senior), noted that Brian, who is just a sophomore, is as good as he was when he labored on the mat for the Brownies. "Brian is tough. He won a wrestle-off to get the spot," Tomkiel added.

The coach also noted that Brian was in just about every match last year, losing by only a single point more than anyone else on the team. "The experience he got in those close ones will help Brian over the top," Tomkiel added.

Senior **Ryan Grealis** heads the 130-pound contingent. He was the third seed at that weight in last season's Western Mass. Tournament. "He's still there. We were worried about his strength. But he has worked hard on improving that. He is better this season," Tomkiel observed.

Jason Jean won the Western Mass. crown last season in the 135's. Graduation claimed him. The spot is wide open. Senior **Damien Lemelin** and junior **Mark Engleman** are in a full-tilt battle to fill that vacancy.

SEE WRESTLING - Page 38...

Hungry AHS Girls' Hoop Seek WMass Title In 1997-98

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

There is no doubt that Agawam High varsity basketball Coach Lou Conte will reach the 200-win plateau sometime early in the 1997-98 season. He currently stands at 194 up and 47 down. He has coached six Valley Wheel champions and one Wheel co-championship (last year with Minnechaug), three Western Mass. champions, and one State finalist in his 11 years at the hardwood helm.

Last year, his club lost a hard-fought heartbreaker at the Springfield Civic Center to eventual Division I Western Mass. and State champion, Minnechaug. He hopes they'll get another shot at the Falcons. He thinks he has a club capable of doing it again this year.

He lost only two players from last year's team, Sarah Cote (now playing at Western New England College) and Lisa Reveruzzi. "Sarah was our best post-up defender. Lisa was a perfect number-six player. No doubt we'll miss them," Conte said.

But he has a nucleus coming back that is arguably the best in Western Mass: Kristen Patterson, Barbara Maloni, and Amber Conte. There is no argument that Patterson, a two-time All-Western Mass. selection and a *USA Today* player to watch last season, is the best point guard in the area. "Everyone knows that. They all gun for her," Conte observed. The senior runs the offense like Patton ran the Third Army — with guts, confidence, and elan. She averaged 15 points a game, had 19 three-pointers, leads the team in assists (7.0), is one of their leading rebounders, and also plays some of the toughest defense around.

Because of her ability to clean the boards, many times she started the Brownie fast break offense from right under the hoop before the opposition could set up.

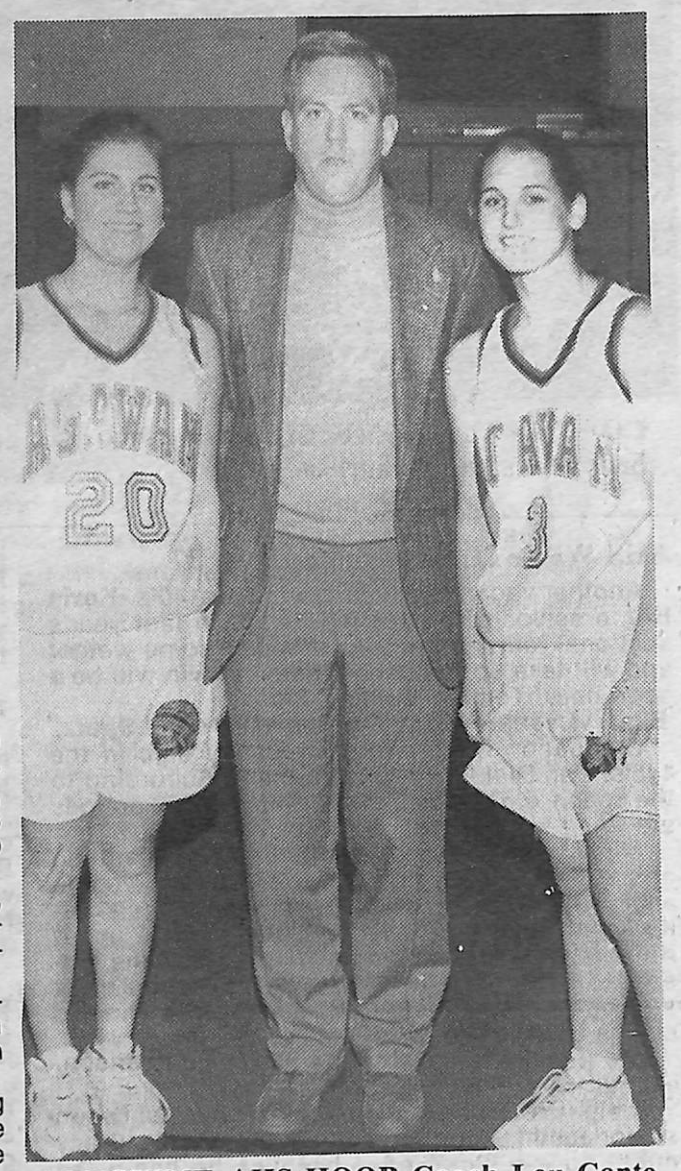
Conte's assistant, Deb Lickley, notes of Patterson (whom she also coaches in softball): "Kristen just hates to lose. That's why she is so good in every sport she tries."

Complementing Patterson will be shooting guard (or forward) Barbara Maloni. "Hairy" (as she is nicknamed) can drain the outside jumper, drive to the hoop with the best of them, and runs the fast break like the wind. In one game against Minnechaug last season, she scored 32 points and went 17-18 from the foul line. She got 20 against the Falcons in a later game. She averaged 21 points an outing during the season, including 14 threes. "Barbara doesn't know how good she can really be," Conte said of the 5'8" junior. "She is probably the best athlete on the team."

If there is any improvement Maloni can make, it would be in the defense department, according to Conte.

Amber Conte, Conte's eldest daughter, has been a steady player since she joined the team as a sophomore. The 5'6" senior can work equally well at number two or three. In a pinch, she can even move to center. "Not just because she is my daughter, but Amber is smart and tough. We would like her to score a little more, though, when she has the open shot." Conte smiled.

SEE GIRLS' HOOP - Page 39...



LONGTIME AHS HOOP Coach Lou Conte and senior captains Amber Conte (left) and Kristen Patterson (right) will once again seek the Western Mass. title in 1997-1998. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

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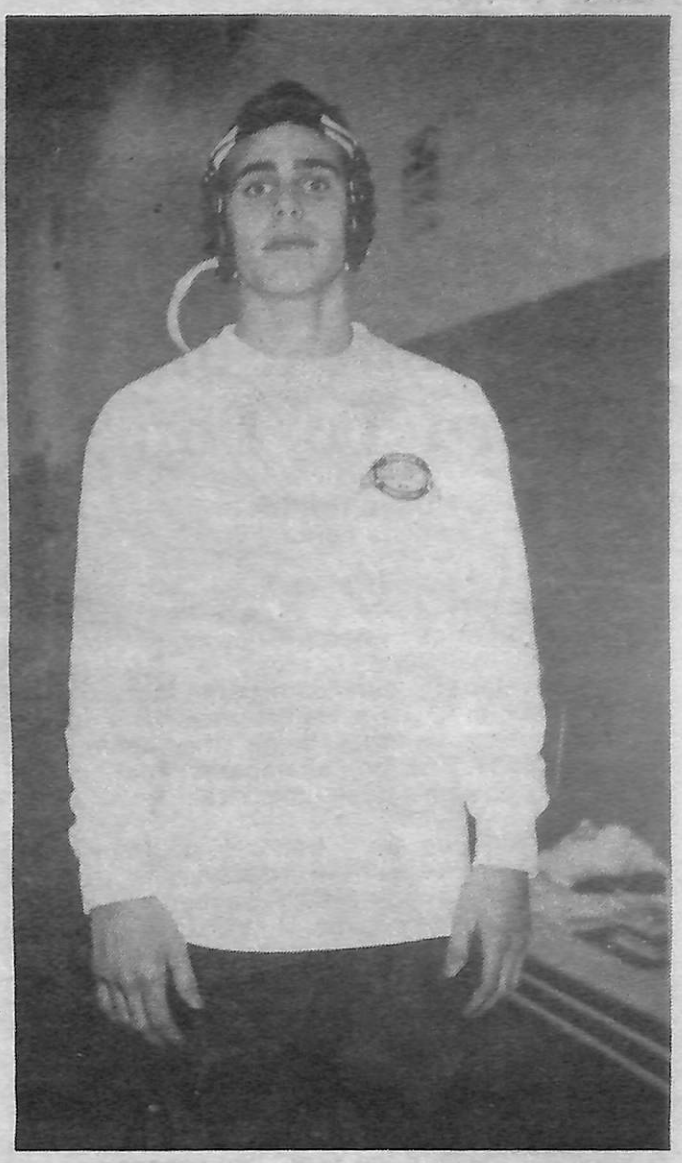
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COACH PHIL TOMKIEL (front row, right) and members of the 1997-1998 Agawam High School wrestling team. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



AHS SENIOR KEVIN MCKAY is considered one of the best wrestlers around. Advertiser News photo by Dave Rollins.

AHS WRESTLING - from Page 37

Another vacant spot exists in the 140's. **Kevin Hill,** a senior who wrestled at 160 in last year's sectional tournament, has dropped some weight and will take up residence there. "Kevin will be a good one," Tomkiel said.

Eight Wrestlers Vying For The 145-Pound Spot...

Graduation hung another vacancy sign in the 145's. Dan Dialessi had been there. According to the coach, eight kids between 145 and 152 pounds are vying for the spot.

All Western Mass. football and wrestling champ Jeff Blews worked at 152 last year. No one will soon forget his battle with West Side's Pat Kelly in last year's Western Mass. final up at Amherst. Blewsie, the second seed, beat the top-seeded Terrier for the title. Now, someone must step up again. At this writing, senior **Dave Thomas** seems to have the inside track.

Lee Kunkler, who wrestled at 171 last season, will fill the vacant 160 spot.

A big hole in the 165's is up for grabs between senior **Justin Stacy** and junior **John Weinle.** Stacy might have a slight edge because he has a tad more experience, but Weinle is not too far behind him.

The great weight divisions for the Brownies arguably have been the 171's and 189's, where such names as Jon Jacobsen, Andrew Ingham, Nick Langone, Rich Dilullo, Vinnie Pallotta, and Tom King grace the record books and are names instantly recognized in the fraternity of Western Mass. wrestling. These names are gone now. Kunkler held that spot last season, but he is wrestling down. Once again, it will be step-up time for the kids.

Either Stacy or Weinle will also compete in the 171's if they are needed.

Junior **Justin Petrangelo,** who wrestled in the heavyweight class at last year's Western Mass tournament, will go in the 189's.

The 215's will be in the big and capable hands of All-Western Mass. champ and State runner-up **Darrell Malachowski.** "He's come in with a great work ethic this season. And it has shown in his training camp performance," Tomkiel observed of the big redhead.

Football standout **George Graves,** a 230-pound *senior, will work the heavyweight class. He could* get some help from Petrangelo and 275-pound junior **Asbel Nunez.**

At this writing, they will have hosted Cathedral in their first match of the season. It should be a Brownie blowout. Tomkiel was asked if coaching gets easier the longer you do it?

Entering his 24th season, he said this, "Definitely harder. There are so many things to be aware of; some are good, some are bad. The sport, like society, is constantly changing."

He feels the two toughest challenges for his Brownies this season will be Ludlow and West Springfield.

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For details, contact Dave at 781-331-7898, New England Youth Sports, 775 Pleasant St., Suite 9, Weymouth, MA 02189.

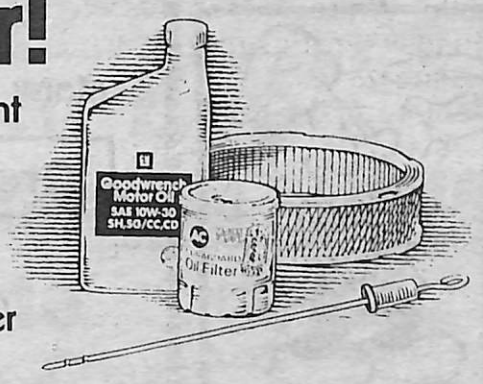
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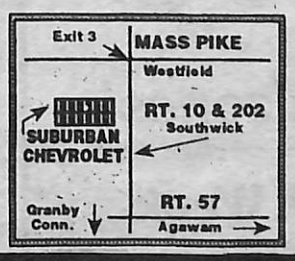
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AHS GIRLS' HOOP - from Page 37...

The Valley Wheel - A "Tall" Division...

It seems among all the schoolgirl divisions in Western Mass., the Valley Wheel has many of the taller front courts. Minnechaug has 6'2" Jillian Danker at one forward, 5'11" Chrissy Girotti on the other side, and 6'4" Maureen Leahy in the middle. West Side features 6'1" Colleen McCaffery in the post and 6' Mary Conner in the four spot. Other teams are equally endowed.

The coach is aware of that fact. He'll counter with returning 6' junior center Pia Bertone-Gross, 5'10" forward Melissa Cote (also a junior), and 5'9" senior Shauna Hadden. All have had extensive experience over the past two years. "Everyone will have to box out and avoid foul trouble at all costs," the coach admitted.

But he also noted that battles among the redwoods underneath mean fouls are never far away. "Pia can turn it on and off. She works very hard. She has to score more consistently," Conte said. As for Cote (Sarah's sister and another returnee from last season), he smiled and noted that she has been a pleasant surprise in training camp.

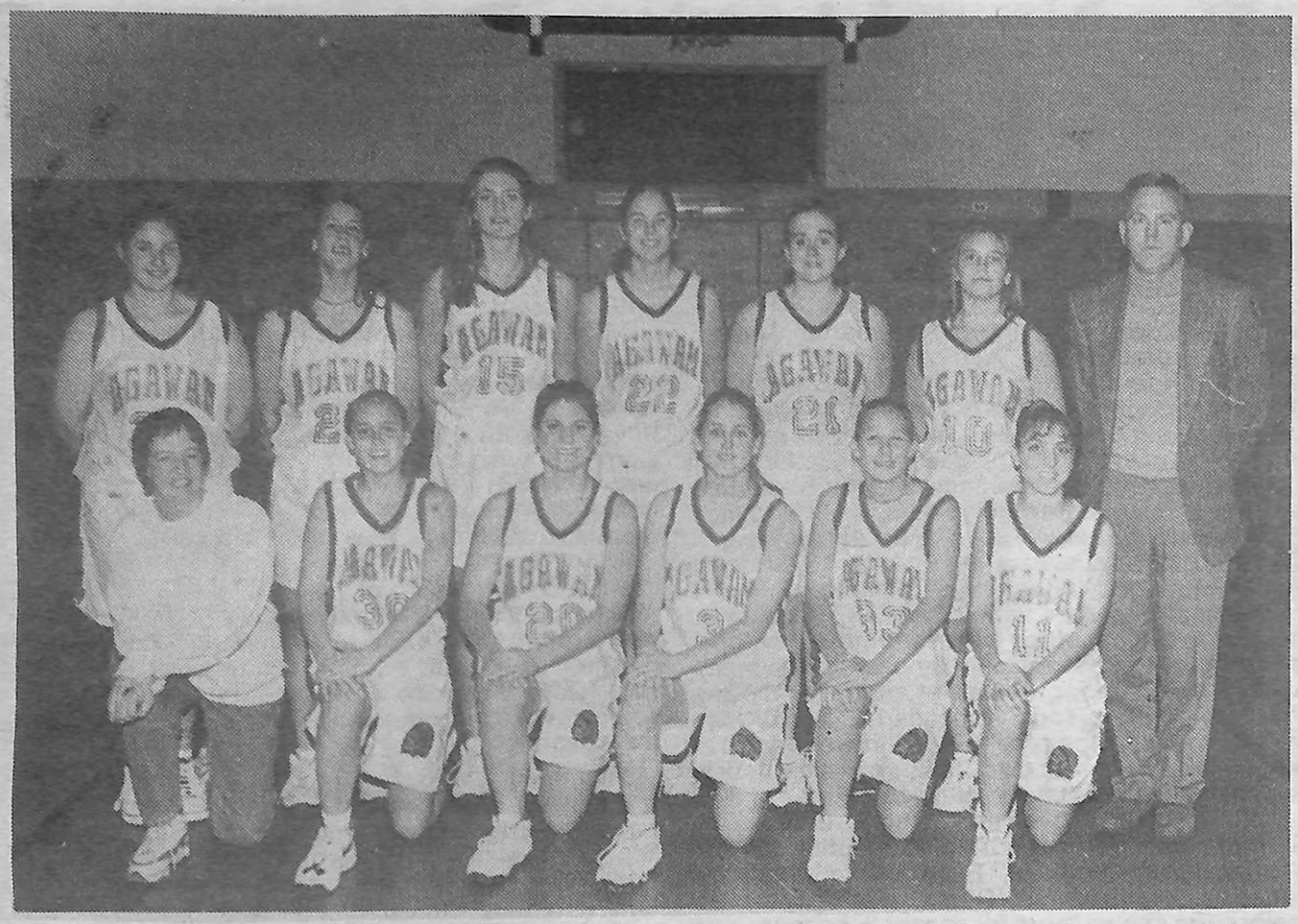
The varsity will welcome some newcomers to its ranks this season. One of the more interesting ones could be freshman Laura Bucalo, who showed well in the pre-season games with returning members of the Agawam club. "There's no doubt about the fact that she is green with a lot to learn," Conte admitted of the 5'8" forward. But he added that she is a very physical player who isn't intimated by anyone.

Also on the squad is senior guard Vanessa Galuzzo, who is perhaps better known for her soccer skills. "Vanessa is a solid team player," Conte noted. She'll be joined by another junior guard, Kara Tierney, and two sophomore guards, Katie Shannon and Sheri Benton. According to the coach, Tierney will come in to give certain players a rest. Shannon and Benton will get spot duty. Conte admits that with 11 players on his roster, depth might become a concern as the season wears along.

What will never be a concern is the Brownies' style of play. They have been well-schooled in the up-tempo game, throwing in full- and half-court breaks along with a torrid zone press, a man-to-man/in-your-face press, and an always-sound perimeter game.

One thing Conte would like to see them do is penetrate a little more on offense, which just about all of them are capable of doing.

The coach was asked if things get any easier or harder the longer you coach? Entering his 12 season, he shook his head. "It never gets any easier. If it did become that way, it would mean that you aren't doing your job."



THE 1997-1998 AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL girls' varsity basketball team. Back row, from left - Laura Bucalo, Barbara Maloni, Pia Bertone-Gross, Melissa Cote, Shauna Hadden, Cara Tierney, and Coach Lou Conte. Front row - Terri Simma (team manager), Sheri Benton, Amber Conte, Kristen Patterson, Katie Shannon, and Vanessa Galluzzo. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

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New Identity, Rebuilding On Agenda For AHS Boys' Hoop This Winter

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

If there is any Agawam High School team that got beaten over the head by graduation, it was boys' basketball. They not only lost their five starters, but two of their key backup guys as well. That could spell disaster for many programs.

Second-year Coach Gary Grumoli can only grin and bear it. In his inaugural season, he led the Brownies to a 12-9 record and a playoff berth. Unfortunately, they lost to Holyoke in the first round. But once you get there, it's like an itch you can't scratch. You are always going for it. Grumoli would like to do that again.

"This is definitely a rebuilding year," he said in the AHS coaches' office while getting ready for a recent practice. He was asked how can the team possibly make up for the loss of all that firepower (Phil McGeoghan, Todd Jorgensen, Chris Bitzas, Jay Malone, and the others)? "We have to form a new identify here. Our lack of experience demands we do that," he offered.

We, he does have some help back. The returnees are led by Brian Gallagher, Bryan O'Quinn, Marc Pedraza, Ryan White, and Jay Hanscom. Hanscom, O'Quinn, and White, all seniors, are known more for soccer (Hanscom and O'Quinn and football (White). Junior Brian Gallagher and Pedraza were also on the football team.

Gallagher came up from the junior varsity seven games into last season and added his 6'2", 220-pound bulk to the power forward position, averaging six points and eight rebounds a game. He is a projected starter this year.

But, as the fates would have it, he is still wobbling around on a badly sprained ankle suffered in the West Side Turkey Day game. "He'll be back in a week or so," Grumoli promised.

Pedraza is a strong and agile power forward. At 6'1", he will find himself battling some of the behemoths in the Valley Wheel and Valley League. "Marc is a competitor. He'll give us some boards and some scoring as well," Grumoli noted.

O'Quinn, a 6' guard/forward, has a quality all coaches learn to love. He uses his take-charge soccer goalie mentality and transforms it into grim determination on the basketball court. "Bryan has to score more and up his defense. No one has ever questioned his desire to win," Grumoli said.

At 6'2", junior Matt Albano will see a lot of action at forward. "He is tough and a scorer," Grumoli said.

Looking To Grab A "Reputation"...

We can go down the list of Brownies who are fighting to grab a name and a reputation in the fast-break, in-your-face world of Western Mass. boys' basketball. Six-foot, four-inch senior Kevin Cornwell, who is injured at this writing, is a guy who will help. Hanscom is a legitimate shooting guard. The coach says of him, "He must score more and go for the boards off his shot."

White, at 6'3", is a brawler. "Ryan is a force down low," Grumoli noted.

That leaves the intangibles. One of them is 5'7" senior point guard Shawn Anderson. "He will be our first back-court man off the bench," Grumoli said. Dave Federico is another guard. He is a senior and a fine outside shooter, according to the coach.

Two guys who have to contribute are perhaps the two best athletes on the team: senior power forwards Eric Melbourne (6'2") and Jeff Lyman (6'). "Neither of them played for us last year. But I think when you see them play, you will understand why they'll make a mark. Both are fierce rebounders," Grumoli smiled.

That leaves one position open — center. Last season, it was held down by 6'5" Jay Malone. At times he would dominate (12 points, 12 rebounds vs. Putnam; 11 points, 10 rebounds vs. Northampton; and 17 points, 14 rebounds vs. Monument Mt.).

Now, the job goes to 6'5" Dave Strole. He is a junior up from the JV's. He will need to be an animal in the paint if the Brownies are going to repel the front-court forces who will storm the gates.

Those are the players. The coach will not change his game plan. "We are very interchangeable this year. We can push the ball up. We don't do it to excite the fans, even though it is an exciting offense. We do it because in the preseason we found out we could be very effective playing that way." On defense, he says they will always keep up the pressure.

"Our strength this season will be the fact that we are flexible. We'll be able to create problems for the other team's defense," Grumoli said.

The weaknesses are rebounding and lack of experience. "Rebounding will be our biggest challenge. If I can convince them that we can win games on the boards, we will have a chance. All the great Western Mass. teams do that."

Grumoli also mentioned that the Valley Wheel will once again be brutal. "You have Chicopee with Mikey Wray. You have Amherst with Ben Jones and Aaron Hamel. You have Northampton, too."

Sixty-seven kids came out for the three Agawam basketball teams. "It was the best turnout in years," the coach said. "We have a bright future."



ALTHOUGH HE IS STILL nursing an ankle injury suffered in the Thanksgiving Game vs. West Side, Brian Gallagher figures to be an important part of AHS hoop very shortly.

Advertiser News photo by Dave Rollins.

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Agawam Hockey Preview...

Brownie Hockey Again Figures To Be Tough This Season

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Last year, the Agawam High hockey team went 13-4-2 and won the Fay Division. It was also a record good enough to get them into the playoffs for the first time in a long time.

However, they suffered a first-round loss to Greenfield, a team they double-dipped, 6-4 and 9-3, earlier in the year.

All in all, head Coach Fran Pycko was pleased with his club. He should have been. They were young, with only three seniors on the roster (Trevor Brown, Joe Dupelle, and Steve Gallant).

While the scoring punch of these guys will be missed, the returning club will once again display the traits all of Pycko's teams have shown in his six years as coach of the Brownies — speed and aggressiveness.

That speed will even be enough to offset the loss of one of their best players, Geoff Ciak (15 goals, 20 assists), who would have been a senior this season. "Geoff decided to go play for a junior hockey team. But he ended up breaking his hand in the pre-season and is out for eight weeks. If he'd been with us, we'd have had the same problem," Pycko noted.

They do have a good one in senior forward Rich Feeley (11 goals, 17 assists). He'll team up on a line that could include juniors Greg Jubinville (five goals, 11 assists) and Andy Radwanski (eight goals, seven assists). All three have had a tremendous amount of experience playing together and could be the go-to line in the scheme of things.

Four of their forwards are only sophomores: Brian Pagella, Dave Gusek, Tony Kosinski, and freshman star Jay Malanson (16 goals, 22 assists). Each has a full year of varsity experience carried over from last season. Three of them will make up the second line. A third line, if they have it, and they might because Pycko tends to play all of his kids, would help in the offense department.

Fresh legs, which are always welcome in an end-to-end game, would always be on the ice. That was one of the reasons they scored over 100 goals last season in their 19 games (7.6 gf).

The club wasn't hit as hard on defense. The always-tough Austin Kimball returns for his senior year, along with junior Josh Sprague. They were part of the reason the Brownies allowed 5.3 goals a game, which is acceptable when you have such a high-powered offense. There are a bunch of freshmen stepping into the defensive situation. In Pycko's game plan, they are sure to get their baptism of fire from the opening bell.

This should be junior goalie Chris Hern's time to shine in net. He had been an understudy to graduate Derek Benton until he got to play a great deal last year and gain valuable experience.

On Tuesday, the Agawam High School hockey team bowed to the Westfield Bombers, 5-3, in their season opener.

AHS Swimmers Open With Double Loss In Westfield's Waters

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The Agawam High swim team took a trip to Westfield Tuesday afternoon and came away all wet, losing 126-59 on the girls' side and 111-33 in the boys' competition.

"We were in over our heads," girls' Coach Kim Scofield admitted, not trying to make any play on words. "They had 31 kids to my 17," she added.

The coach pointed out some bright lights in an otherwide dreary afternoon. "Sophomore Missy Sparveri did well in the 100 fly, swimming a personal best 1:06."

In the 200 and 500 freestyle competition, sophomore Caitlin Weisgerber managed a second-place finish. The Brownies got a ray of hope in the swimming equivalent of a drag race — the 50 meter freestyle. In that one junior captain Brenna McGinn finished first with a personal best time of 29.48.

The boys' team, coached by Mayor Chris Johnson, may have lost, but they doubled their numbers. Last year, they had only two kids. This year, they have four!

They are Charlie Roberts, Nathan Adamski, Matt Francis, and veteran Brendan Kilrain. They finished second in the 200 meter relay to highlight their meet.

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Peter Clark New Baseball Coach For AHS Boys

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

It might seem strange to mention baseball during this chilly season when all the sports venues have shifted indoors. But, the hot-stove league continues to cook along, with one bloodshot eye always trained on the boys of spring and summer, no matter what level it might be. In this case, the subject is the new Agawam High baseball Coach, Pete Clark. He was the man picked to take over the diamond duties from the recently resigned Boo Smith.

Clark, 43, is a resident of Agawam and is a familiar face in Agawam youth sports. His wife's name is Korby. He has two daughters: Keegan, 14, a freshman at AHS, and Jennifer, 10, a fifth grader. His son, Joe, is 13 and a seventh grader. Joe and Keegan enjoy all sports. Jen likes swimming but is also interested in acting. She has a part in a Christmas play at The Red Door Theater in Feeding Hills.

Clark got his bachelor's and master's degrees at Western Maryland College in Westminster, Maryland. It was there that he got his start in coaching. "I was always interested in sports, any sport," he said.

He was the head baseball coach there for three years. He also served a three-year stint as an assistant football coach there.

He coached football at Trinity College in Connecticut, and was the team assistant at Agawam High under former baseball Coach Lou Conte. He has also been down to the grass roots level, coaching suburban football, basketball, and baseball. Along the way, Clark got involved with the Jiffy Lube Corporation and did quite well because of it.

The Agawam High varsity baseball coaching iob is one of the prime assignments in Western

SEE PETER CLARK - Page 42...



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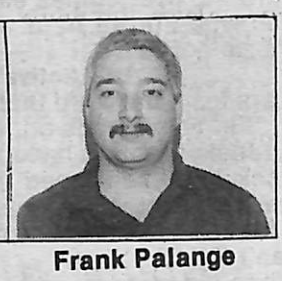
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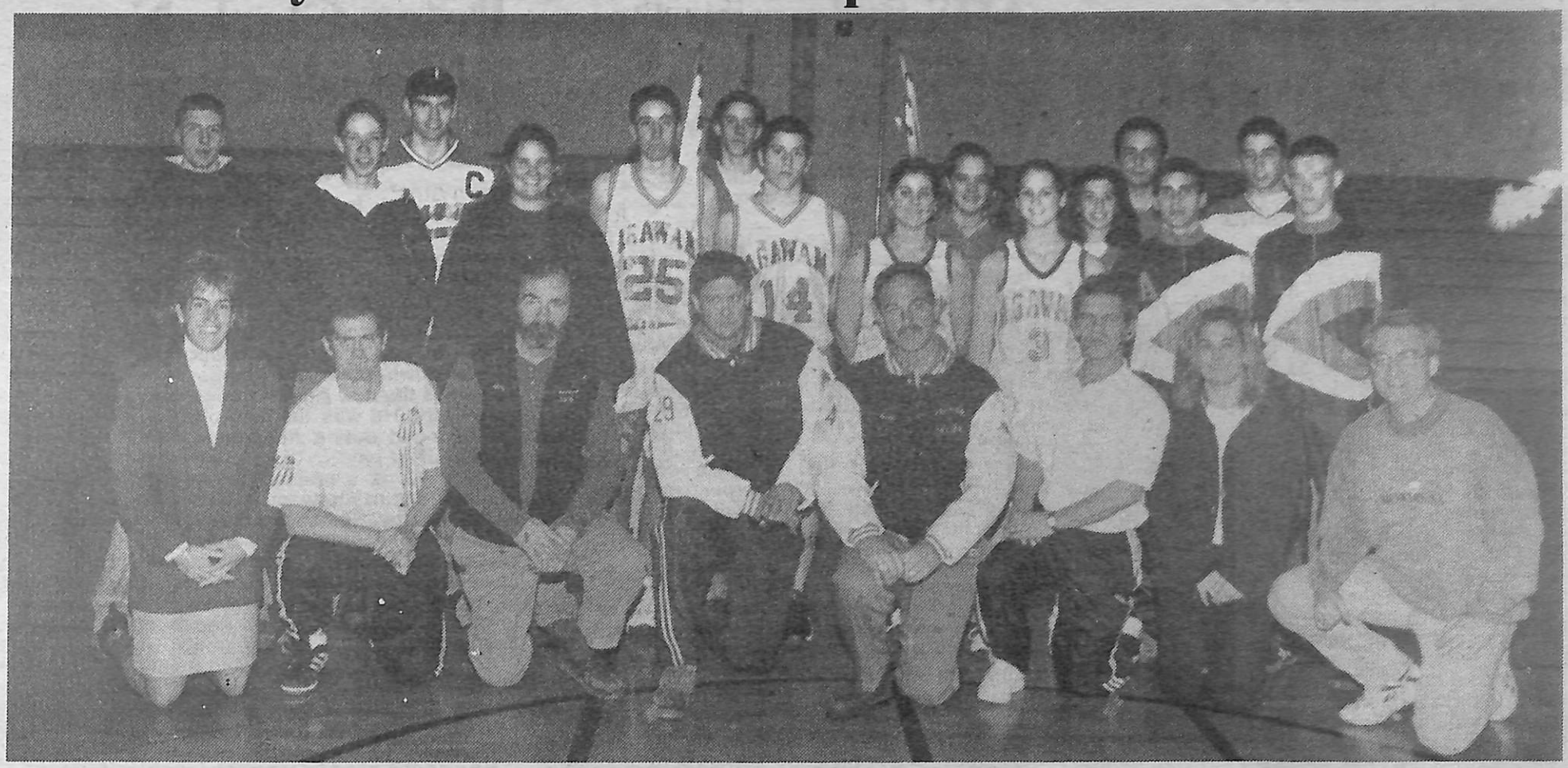
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Ready To Face The Competition This Winter...



AGAWAM ATHLETIC DIRECTOR Kathy McSweeney (front row, far left) is pictured with the coaches and captains of the various Agawam High School winter 1997-98 sports teams. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

PETER CLARK - from Page 41...

Mass. Clark is aware of that. "I'm looking forward to it," he said, noting that he has long been a fan of Agawam athletics. He knows he'll be greeting a talented team this spring.

"I'll start with my philosophy of coaching, which means dealing with them up front. I'll do with them what I did in business, by communicating. They must understand that nothing worthwhile ever comes easy. They are a talented bunch who knows hard work translates into victory," he noted.

An "Active" Style...

Clark feels the word that fits his style best is active. "I'm very hands-on. I believe in the basics. And I feel you must have intensity and a positive outlook." He mentioned the three "i's" that lead to success: intensity, interest, and integrity. "If you follow them both on and off the field, you really can't fail."

When his club takes the field, he'll make sure they are aggressive. "They'll take the extra base. They'll take some chances if the opportunity presents itself. Many times high risk brings a high reward."

The Brownies have some fine talent coming back, like infielder Mike Wing, power-hitting outfielder Ryan Progulske, catcher Andy St. Jean, and his brother, Brian St. Jean, who is developing into an outstanding pitcher.

Then there is Bryan O'Quinn, who showed well last season in his stints on the mound. Their efforts helped Agawam get back to the playoffs. The year before that, they were the Western Mass. champs. "I fully expect to get this team back into the playoffs. I know what they can do. I expect them to do it," he said.



PETER CLARK, the new head coach of the Agawam High School boys' baseball team, believes the Brownies have what it takes to return to the playoffs this spring.

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Coca-Cola Basketball Classic...

Brownies To Participate In Prestigious Event

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Brownie boys' head basketball Coach Gary Grumoli is the director of the Chicopee Boys and Girls Club. The club, with the generous help of the Coca-Cola Company, will present the Coca-Cola High School Classic Basketball Tournament this Saturday, December 20th, at Blake Arena on the campus of Springfield College. Much like the teams involved. the support from local businesses is a team effort. They include Greater Media Cable, Subway, and Peter Pan Bus Lines.

"It's a great opportunity to see some very talented teams from our area and from places far away. We'll be able to see how we stack up in our region's never-ending effort to be counted as a hotbed of high school basketball," Grumoli said.

Indeed it will be. The Agawam High varsity girls will be involved, along with the Pioneer Valley Regional High School boys' varsity squad. The Brownies, under Coach Lou Conte, have been a force in Western Mass. basketball for many years. Pioneer Valley is a Division III power, finishing 25-0 last year. They are a two-time Division III State champion and are on a 50-game winning streak.

Agawam will start off the festivities at 6:30 p.m. with a game against powerful Egg Harbor Township High School out of New Jersey. They went 20-8 last season, and you just know Conte and his kids are pumped up for this one. Even though it won't show up as an official game in their Valley Wheel standings, it is an opportunity for the local faithful to see the kids in action against one of the more formidable teams on the East Coast.

To that end, the Brownies have been putting in hours of intense practice time at Clifford Kibbe Gym. The Egg Harbor team is pumped as well. They're looking forward to playing in the birthplace of basketball, according to their coach, Sam Botta.

"Doing It Up Right"...

Agawam is going to do it up right as well. "We'll go downtown and stay at the Sheraton Friday and Saturday night, just like a college team might do it. We are going to take it all in. We think the girls will enjoy the experience. It is an honor for our program to be in the tournament," assistant Coach Deb Lickley said.

Bayside, which is from New York and a perennial power in boys' basketball there, may not be from the birthplace of the game, but they come from one of its hotbeds. They will take on Pioneer at 8:15. Both contests should give the faithful of every team involved a great look at four outstanding programs in tough competition.

Grumoli wanted folks to know that the proceeds of the tournament and the festivities surrounding it will help benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Chicopee.

Tickets are $6 and can be purchased at Agawam High School, Pioneer Valley High School, the Basketball Hall of Fame, Fenton's Sporting Goods, and at the Boys and Girls Club of Chicopee.

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Vipers	3	2	1	7
Ball Hogs	3	2	1	7
Longmeadow	3	3	0	6
Tidal Waves	1	5	0	2
Holyoke S.C.	0	6	0	0

U-14 BOYS	W	L	T	P
Rockets	4	1	0	8
Southwick	3	1	0	6
Dynamos	0	5	0	0

U-14 GIRLS	W	L	T	P
Our Lady Of Hope	5	0	0	10
Holyoke Flames	3	3	0	6
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U-10 GIRLS	W	L	T	P
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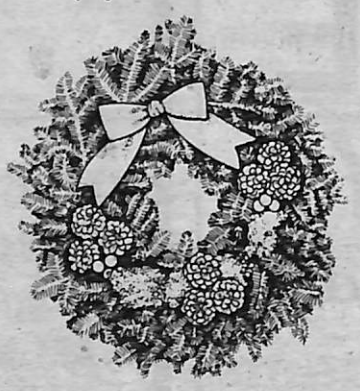
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Outdoors New England

by Kent Servis
Outdoor Writer

TIME TO SHARPEN THE ICE AUGER

Even though safe ice is yet a ways away, it's about time to make sure that your ice augers are sharpened and ready for the upcoming ice fishing season.

Don't wait until your buddy calls and wants to go the next day. If you send your blades out to get sharpened, you may have to wait for several days or more.

Dust off your tip-ups and replace that old line that may have weakened over time. While on the subject of line, a word of caution is in order for ice fishermen. Those new super braid lines such as Spider Wire and Fireline, are a great aid to sensitivity and "feel." There is one drawback to this type of line for ice fishing, and it has nothing to do with their fish catching suitability.

These new lines can cut through flesh faster than a chainsaw through butter. This is probably not a problem when icing a 12-inch perch, but a good bass or northern pike is capable of making a strong run.

If you are retrieving line hand-over-hand, you could be in store for line cuts like you have never imagined. Even your gloves and mittens will not offer much protection.

A big fish stripping line, could make handling some of these "super braids" like grabbing on to the blade of a bandsaw.

TRACKING SNOW SHOULD HELP

Early snow has provided deer hunters with ideal tracking conditions for the black powder season which is now under way. In addition to revealing recently traveled routes and relative sizes of the animals, it serves as a dampening blanket to soften the sound of our own footsteps.

LET'S HEAR FROM OUR READERS

If you have an interesting outdoors story or photos of your successful hunting or fishing trip, send them in to us. Sportsman's clubs are invited to share their club news and special event announcements.

Brownies Are "Bombed" By Westfield In Opening Game For Boys' Basketball

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

It was not an auspicious way for the Agawam High boys' basketball team to open the season. Twenty-one turnovers resulting in 14 opposition points, a shooting percentage of 35 percent (11 -38), and a failure to execute when they had the chances all added up to a 58-30 loss to Westfield. "We didn't take care of the ball," Brownie Coach Gary Grumoli said, shaking his head.

This one was a track meet from the get-go. The Brownies were determined to run; so were the Bombers. At the 11:00 mark, however, Westfield was up 7-0 on a three for nine shooting performance. It wasn't anything to cheer about, unless you looked at Agawam's performance to that point.

The Brownies were 0-4 and couldn't even find the rim. At 10:45, Jeff Lyman (four points) finally broke the ice. But it wasn't nearly enough. Agawam was not boxing out. Westfield was heating up. With 8:18 left, they led, 15-4, on a 7-17 shooting performance and the Brownie five was just about cooked.

With 4:38 to go in the half, Agawam made a semi-stand, cutting the score to 17-10. But the Bombers, switching from man to zone, weren't letting the Brownies penetrate to the hoop. That frustrated Grumoli. "We just weren't recognizing the seams in their zone," he said.

Because of that, Westfield opened things up and led, 26-12, at halftime.

Agawam managed to hit only five of 21 first-half field goals. The Bombers were 11 for 27. Agawam didn't help their cause, committing seven turnovers to the Bombers' one.

Agawam committed two more turnovers with less than a minute gone in the second half. Westfield converted on both. At 13:49, they led, 32-13. Some Brownie had to step up.

Bryan O'Quinn (seven points) tried, laying in a deuce on a nice drive to the hole. But the Bomber "D" was stingy; they quickly shut down the lanes, forcing the Brownies to gun from downtown. Considering their lack of long-range firepower, doom was pretty much on hand for the Brownies.

No Offense To Complement Full-Court Press...

They did try. But even a full-court press wasn't going to work on this night because there was no offense to complement it. And when Agawam did get the rock, more often than not they coughed it up. Witness the fact that they had 14 second-half turnovers, of which Westfield got 10 gift points.

With 9:00 to go, only two Brownies were shooting: O'Quinn, who managed to nail a three (he would go three for six from the field in the game), and Lyman (who went 4-4 from the line in the second half).

Now and then, the Brownies showed flashes of what they could be on offense. With 6:00 to go, guard Shawn Anderson, along with forward Matt Albano and center Dave Strole, pulled off a bodacious triple dish through heavy traffic for a Strole (two points) hoop down low. But those moments were rare.

With 2:30 left, Westfield led, 48-26. All that was left for the Brownies was the final buzzer, which could not come soon enough.

Westfield took it for their first win of the season. Agawam fell to 0-1. It was a non-league game, so no harm was done, except maybe to the Agawam pride.

BROWNIE STATS:

O'Quinn — seven points (3-6, one three), one rebound; Jay Hanscom — four points (2-9), one rebound; Pedraza — two points (1-9), three rebounds; Albano — two points (1-3, 0-2 ft), two rebounds; Strole — two points (1-1), four rebounds; Federico — (0-2), one rebound; White — three points (1-1, 1-2 ft), two rebounds; Melbourne — (0-1, 0-2 fts), two rebounds; Anderson — six points (1-3, 4-4 fts); Cornwell — (0-1); Lyman — four points (1-2, 2-3 ft), three rebounds.

Westfeld didn't set any records from the field, either; they went 22-54 (45 percent). But their work from the stripe (13 - 18) didn't hurt them.

Agawam went 7 - 10 when they got the chance. Westfield had 21 boards. Agawam had 19. The turnovers flipped the Brownies. It is as simple as that.

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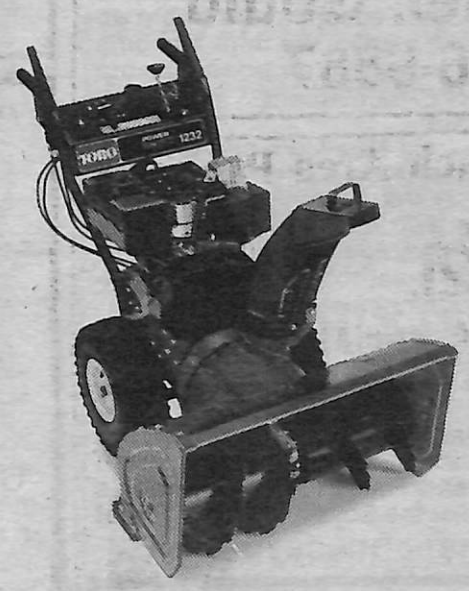
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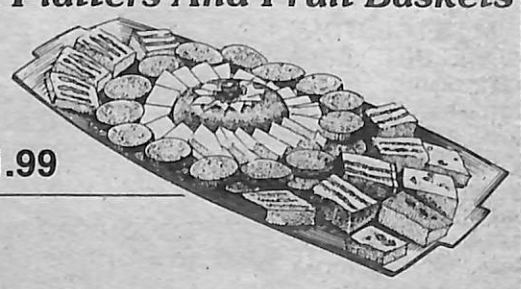
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